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March 1995

CDXC - The UK DX Foundation

Issue 94

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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: APRIL 7th (LATE NEWS APRIL 21st)**

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## CHILTERN DX CLUB - The UK DX Foundation - Aims and Objectives

**From the Constitution:** "The aim of the Club will be to promote excellence in HF operating, particularly DXing, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate"

**From the Prospectus:** "CDXC caters for amateurs with an interest in competitive activity on the HF bands (DXing, contesting, award chasing, etc.)"

**Membership:** Membership of CDXC is open to any amateur or SWL who has 100 DXCC countries confirmed on the HF bands. New members must be proposed by at least two club members.

**Subscriptions:** The annual subscription is currently set at £12.00 for UK members, and £17.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above).

**Newsletter:** This newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee.

## NEW SOFTWARE FROM G3PMR SAM-I

### SHACKLOG AWARDS MANAGER FOR IOTA

SAM-I is one of the most complete IOTA awards management programs yet produced. Operating in conjunction with SHACKLOG's QSO database and the SHACKLOG IOTA database, SAM-I produces its own separate island status database, and offers the following capability:

- Tracking of *all* IOTA Programme Awards:
  - ⇒ Islands of The World Awards
  - ⇒ Continental Awards
  - ⇒ Regional Awards
  - ⇒ World Diploma
- Bar charts plot your progress towards the awards, showing accepted, claimed but not yet accepted, and waiting to be claimed status
- Automatic claim generation, with all information required for a valid claim *including* island name, and supporting comment
- Edit capability to enable fine tuning of the claim
- Facility for personal notes against each island - not sent to Checkpoint
- Comprehensive Reporting:
  - ⇒ Islands accepted by IOTA checkpoint
  - ⇒ Islands rejected by IOTA checkpoint
  - ⇒ Islands claimed but not yet accepted
  - ⇒ Confirmed islands
  - ⇒ Worked but not confirmed islands
  - ⇒ Worked plus confirmed islands
  - ⇒ Islands not yet worked
- Report by continent or world
- No preferences to set - existing SHACKLOG preferences used
- Familiar SHACKLOG user interface
- Supports claims by island activators

SAM-I represents unbelievable value at only £5.00 (that's right - FIVE POUNDS!). N.B. SAM-I is not a stand alone program - it needs SHACKLOG 4 and the SHACKLOG IOTA database to run. The complete package of SHACKLOG, the IOTA Database, and SAM-I is *only* £37.50 SHACKLOG AND SAM-I - *the winning combination for IOTA enthusiasts.*

SHACKLOG, SAM-I and the SHACKLOG IOTA Database are available from Alan Jubb, G3PMR, 30 West Street, Great Gransden, Sandy Bedfordshire, SG19 3AU. Tel/Fax: +44 (0) 1767 677 913.

SHACKLOG 4.2 (free to registered SHACKLOG 4 users!) operates in conjunction with SAM-I's database to give automatic on-line flagging of island worked/confirmed/claimed status whilst logging - a real boon to serious island hunters!

Individual prices: SHACKLOG £27.50  
SAM-I £5.00  
IOTA Database £7.50  
Upgrade V3-V4 £10.00

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## EDITORIAL

*Alan Jubb, G3PMR*

Hello to everyone, and especially to our many new members.

First of all, belated congratulations to CDXC members Jan Fisher, G0IVZ for achieving world 6th place in the 1994 CQWW 160 Metre CW DX Contest, low power section, and to Peter Miles, G3KDB for achieving top G overall. Also to Keith Ginder, G3NAS, for achieving top G in the 1994 CQWW 160 Metre SSB DX Contest. Congratulations are also due to John Linford, G3WGV, ex CDXC Chairman, who was awarded the coveted *CDXC Award of Merit* for his role on the VK9MM DXpedition.

In the December 1994 CQ Magazine, there was an interesting article by Chod Harris, VP2ML, on tips for QSLing, although mainly from the US view point. However, a number of points are worthy of mention here:

- US postal rate for 10g airmail is set to rise to \$0.55 at some time in 1995.
- Due to the reduced value of the \$US, coupled with the increase in postage rates in some countries, \$1 is often not enough to cover return airmail postage for a single QSL from some parts of the world.
- It is a myth that so-called 'new' IRCS have more value than the ones with the old wording. (*See later in this Newsletter for information on unstamped IRCS*)
- Avoid enclosing folded envelopes when direct QSLing - use nested ones instead. (Anyone know where to buy these in the UK?).

- Postal workers in some countries use hand held scanners to detect the magnetic ink that is used on most of the world's bank notes. (Which means using IRCs or mint postage stamps).

One of the most disturbing issues of the last couple of months was the deliberate QRMMing of contest stations. This seemed particularly prevalent in AFS, when a number of CDXC members suffered from it. This sort of QRMMing is deplorable, achieves nothing for the QRMer, and indicates the small minded attitude that some regrettably take to the hobby.

Due to improved access to GB7BPQ from West Cambridgeshire, I have now made 'BPQ my home node. However, I have noticed these last few days that some mail is not reaching me at 'BPQ, but is accumulating at 'DXH. I didn't realise this for some time, so apologies to anyone who had to wait awhile for a response to a message. I'm not sure why this happens - maybe one of the sysops could advise? Until this is sorted out I will log on to 'DXH as well as 'BPQ.

One of the initiatives reported on last time was the drive to reduce the costs of printing the Newsletter. That was successful, with quality being maintained, whilst achieving a substantial reduction in printing costs. A further benefit has been achieved, at least for this issue, with three paid advertisements. These moves help me to keep up the size of the Newsletter (provided I get the input, of course!), without getting it in the neck from the Treasurer for overspending! It will also allow the quality of the Newsletter to be improved - this issue sees the first Newsletter with card covers. The largest cost we now have to bear is postage for the Newsletter mailing.

It was good to see so many members, including at least one of our new members, at the Annual CDXC Dinner. Members

attending were: G3NUG, G4IUF, G3PMR, G4PFF, G4WVX, G3PJT, G3KMA, G0UCT, G3RTE, G3SXW, GW0RTA, G3ZAY, G4JVG, G3COJ, G3OZF, G4LJF, G0OPB, G4HSD, G3WGV, G0ORH, which, with partners, totalled 34 - our best attendance to date.

I look forward to chatting to more members at the London Amateur Radio and Computer Show, where I shall be exhibiting SHACKLOG and SAM-I. You will be able to find me in the *Red Hall*, in block P. I also hope to meet many members at the *Annual Review Meeting* (ARM), on July 8th. The ARM is a short business meeting, at which the Committee for the next year are elected, a review of the year's activities takes place, and members are able to raise issues for discussion, and for action by the new committee. This is *your* chance to influence the direction of CDXC. This year, Neville, G3NUG has kindly offered to organise a barbecue on July 8th, so that the occasion will be a social as well as a business event. As well as the activities mentioned in *The Chairman's Chat*, it is possible that there will be bungee jumping from G3NUG's new 40m beam!

Thanks, as always, to all contributors, without whose input this Newsletter would not exist, and also to G3GIQ, G4WFZ, CQ Magazine, QST, DXNS, Les Nouvelles DX, QRZDX, The Bangkok Post, The Hong Kong Standard and the UK PacketCluster Network.

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## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

### Neville Cheadle G3NUG

I am pleased to report that our current Membership drive has been going well and I would like to welcome our many new Members. We started this Membership drive at the 1994 HF and IOTA Convention; this was followed up with a mailing of the CDXC prospectus with the RSGB DXNS (circulation 1300) and by various notes on

the cluster. Some of you may have seen my "DXers - Something for Nothing" note on the cluster. It produced about 40 requests for a sample of the Newsletter and for the Prospectus. We now have well over 200 Members compared with 150 about one year or so ago. John G3FKM will make a mention of CDXC in his HF News column in March RadCom and I hope this will bring in some further responses. It's great to see old Members rejoining as well as the new Members.

At our last Committee meeting we agreed some new rules regarding the Penalt Trophy and I would like to thank Ron G6LX for the work he has done in researching the history and rules for this trophy. The new rules are set out later in this Newsletter.

At our last Committee meeting Ken GOORH was formally appointed Contest Coordinator. He takes over from Bruce G4WVX. Thanks Bruce for your efforts. We also decided at this meeting to publish Committee meeting attendance records as from the next ARM.

It was also great to have a good turnout for the Annual Dinner in January. About 35 Members, wives and friends attended and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. I was personally a little disappointed with the food but the company was excellent and the talk by Roger G3SXW on "Expedition Experiences - (Ghana and Others) - Uncensored" went down very well. He kept a lovely balance and I am sure that all those present thoroughly enjoyed the talk. Thank you Roger. Apologies to those who wished to participate in the 160m CW Contest over that week-end and were therefore unable to attend. Avoiding a clash of dates is almost impossible nowadays!

I took the opportunity at the Dinner to make good an oversight of a year or so ago and was delighted to present a CDXC Award of Merit to John G3WGV for his efforts on the

Willis Island DXpedition of September 1993. The award should have been made at the last Convention. It was discussed by last years' committee when John was the Chairman, I should have picked this up when I took over but didn't. Anyway, we've now put matters right - well done John - better late than never!

At our last Committee meeting we agreed to contribute £200 to the forthcoming Conway Reef DXpedition and this contribution has been matched by a further £200 from the RSGB DXpedition fund. Our WARC band antenna will be used by the Conway Reef team and will in future be stored on Fiji. We feel that this is a much more central location for storage than Tuvalu. Incidentally, it was good to see our logo figure prominently on the South Georgia VP8SGP QSL cards.

As a result of our proposal to the RSGB regarding Bhutan we had confirmation last week that RSGB Memberships had been awarded to two officials in Bhutan and that four copies of both the RAE Manual and the new Radio Communication Handbook have been despatched to Thimpu.

I have some good news to report about the 1995 HF Convention. In the January Newsletter I said that I had written a proposal on behalf of the RSGB HF and Convention Organising Committees to the RSGB suggesting that the Society becomes much more involved in future HF Conventions. Much concern has been expressed about the low profile of the RSGB both in organising and participating in past Conventions. However, in the Society's defence, I must say that I am not at all certain whether they have ever been asked to participate more fully.

As a result of the proposal, which set out the benefits to the Society and the key tasks involved, it has now been agreed that the Society will become one of the financial sponsors of the Convention and, in addition,

will provide very substantial support to the Organising Committee. This is really good news because it is unreasonable to expect volunteers to set up and run a Convention of the size of the 1994 Convention. Nevertheless, we will still need a lot of help from CDXC Members so if anyone is able to help, either by participating on the Organising Committee, or by taking on some of the tasks please do get in touch with me. The name of the 1995 Chairman should be announced in the next few days.

On the IOTA front, we have been very busy. A new computer system has been written by which Members can apply on disk. I will describe the system in some detail in a later Newsletter. The beta tests have now been completed satisfactorily and the new system is being used by IOTA Members for the 1994 updates which are due in by the end of February 1995.

We've also had very good support from the amateur radio press regarding the press release about the sponsorship of IOTA by Yaesu. I circulated 40 copies of this press release world-wide (together with the 1995 IOTA Directory and Anniversary Booklet) and nearly all the recipients of the release have given generous coverage in their publications.

Yaesu have recently agreed to fund the printing costs of 10,000 brochures about IOTA. This is an eight page marketing brochure with colour covers and should be available for Pickets Lock. These brochures will be distributed with all Yaesu HF equipment shipments and will also be available at major hamfests such as Dayton, Freidrichshafen and Tokyo. We expect a significant impact on the numbers participating in the IOTA programme as a result of these initiatives.

So finally to this year's ARM. We would like to make this year's ARM a social as well as a business occasion. I have volunteered to

hold the ARM at my home on Saturday 8 July. We plan to have a barbecue party here at Further Felden. Of course, wives, partners etc., will all be welcome and for those who would like a change from ham radio we can organise tennis, swimming or even croquet. So, please make a note in your diaries of the date. More details will be published in the May Newsletter. I may even have the 4 element 40 m. beam up by then! Hope you can make it.

73 Neville

## JOTTINGS OF THE SECRETARY

**Dave Mann G0HXN**

By the time you read this the annual dinner would have come and gone, those of you who attended I hope you enjoyed yourselves. At time of writing I am listening to Herb G/OZ7SM sunning himself on his Caribbean Island, as he put it "Up this \*\*\*\*\* great hill, scared the \*\*\*\* out of me", sounds idyllic. It was a shame that I will not have time to stay in the shack, but it was nice to hear him having chats to Martin G3ZAY and Alan G3PMR. The membership drive seems to have gone quite well, I know my postman always gets interested in new postage stamps which arrive at my QTH, and my mailbox has been pretty full at times over the last few weeks with applications from Brazil, Australia, Malta (Gozo Island), Taiwan (The President of CTARL), Italy, Portugal, Germany (including an 83 year old), Norway, Belgium and many more from the U.K. We also had many listeners join, the majority who wrote letters all said that they were in the midst of their R.A.E. courses, or awaiting results. To all of those good luck, look forward to meeting you on air. I think its is now time that serious consideration be made to having a Club Frequency on 80 metres, or wherever it was felt that we might pass on information other than on the Cluster. What we have to remember is that not all members have access to the Cluster, or have computers in the shack, and now our

membership is in 26 DXCC countries we really should make the effort to keep in contact over the airwaves. **What do you think ??**

Our membership is at the moment fairly healthy, and hopefully we will maintain our numbers. One of the largest expenses we have is the cost of postage, and normally I would send all new members a copy of the CDXC QSL card, so to try and restrict our postage bill so that even more can be donated to our aim of support to DXpeditions I will only send one out if requested, with return postage please. For those who know this card it is extremely popular with our members and recipients. If you feel that you would like to order card please contact G4LJF QTHR. for an application. Without going into too much detail 2000 of these full colour cards will set you back £80.00, well worth it. For those who have been following my letters in RadCom I have written a separate article explaining the whole circumstances. Hopefully we will see as many of you as possible at this year's ARM which will be held at the Neville's QTH on July 8th. (I'm sure Neville wants a work party for his big beam he wants to put up!!). There is good motorway access from all points of the compass, it is also rumoured that there are the occasional trains to nearby Hemel Hempstead. If you feel you would like to come, but it's too far for a day trip I can put one of you up, or bring the XYL as well, but remember, first come first served. Lets see lots of you here this year, it's your club, lets hear from you. Are you happy with what your Committee does on your behalf? The last Newsletter was a bumper edition, and I received several messages and telephone calls commenting on the content, but lets have more input from you. I am sure that Alan will mention this elsewhere. Having just read my Feb. RadCom I read with disgust the alleged comments regarding Emma Wills one of our latest and certainly our youngest member. All I can say is **IGNORE THEM**

**EMMA**, show them by racking up your 200 this year. (*Ed: Apologies to Emma for misspelling her surname in the January Newsletter*)

I am just finishing this off as Bhutan has appeared on the Cluster, plus umpteen policemen, tuners, whistlers, AX25 signals etc etc. What an example to set, it's a shame everybody hasn't the same good manners and operating procedures as some of our Novices, and I say Novices advisedly, they seem to be more Professional than some Amateurs.

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## LETTERS

Dear Alan,

I read in the last issue of the CDXC Newsletter the good work done by the Club to foster the DX spirit in Ham Radio.

Could the members of CDXC be persuaded to help something in the UK, and breath life into the DXNS Voicebank?

It may come as a surprise to some that there are many keen DXers who through either location, finance, or the inability to use a computer, have no access to the UK PacketCluster network, and like myself have used the Voicebank over many years.

Over the past few months, the approximate number of reports on the Voicebank has been 20, but the band reports in DXNS contain approximately 200. A considerable difference, and during the recent VP8SGP DXpedition the total number of reports for this call was nine - not a lot of support for the Voicebank.

If even 25% of the membership of CDXC made one call per week into the Voicebank, this would increase the report total by approximately 200%. It only costs the price of a local call to log the report on the Voicebank, a small amount to bring help to those unable to access the DX Cluster.

*Ed: How about it? The number for leaving spots*

on the Voicebank is 01426 910 240. Playback 01426 925 240

From: Steve G4JVG

It is now very nearly one year since I ceased to be P29DX and returned to being an ordinary G4. I have been almost entirely QRT during this period, not through any feeling of burn-out after some 40,000 QSOs from a DX location, but because we sold our house so as to be more flexible in job hunting when we returned to Britain, and have been living in a small flat with no antenna possibilities since.

In July I entered the IARU contest, guest operating from G3OZF's station. We had intended to enter in the multi-single category, but Don was called away on an overseas business trip at short notice and kindly allowed me to use his station as a single op. It was good to get back on the air again, and from such a good station too! I have just received the certificate for being 1st G, 1st in Zone 27, and 8th in the world, in the phone-only section, so the results were quite gratifying. Later in July Don, having by now returned from VK, and I operated in the IOTA contest as GJ3OZF, which has already been written up in this Newsletter.

My job, with a start-up broadcast monitoring company in London, didn't work out as I had hoped, and I will be taking up a new position as News Editor on RadCom in early February. This will eventually mean a move of QTH to be a little closer to Potters Bar, and of course one of the criteria will be to find a location with some antenna possibilities. The editorial policy of RadCom is set by RSGB Council and the RadCom advisory panel, so do not expect any radical change in content, but having said that I would be very pleased to receive any news items or articles, whether about HF DX/Contesting or not, and will do my best to see that they are published. Send any such material to me at the RadCom office at

RSGB headquarters: I look forward to hearing from you.

*Letter to G4PFF from Al Hernandez, WA3YVN, received just too late for publication in the January Newsletter.*

Dear Mike,

Thank you for your donation and fund raising support to the SGI-DXpedition. The generous financial support provided by CDXC and the DX community at large is what makes DXpeditions to rare and remote DX locations possible.

The cost of conducting an operation in the Antarctic region is usually very high due to the high cost of chartering an appropriate ship, shipping all the equipment, fuel, air travel, etc. However, rest assured that each operator is contributing well over \$5000.00 to cover all personal travel expenses plus other expedition costs.

The SGI operation is on track for January 4-19, 1995. We will also operate as much as possible on the low bands and new bands from the Falklands, December 24-30 and January 23-26.

Once again thank you for your support and look forward to working you and CDXC members from down under....HI!!!!

All the best this Holiday season to you and your family, and to all CDXC members.

73s and all the best for now. Al, WA3YVN.

*Ed: I faxed Al to see if he would let me have an article for the Newsletter, but so far nothing has been forthcoming. If I do get a suitable article, I will publish it in the May Newsletter, although some members will have seen the article in DXNS.*

## **ADVANCED CONTEST INFORMATION**

**Ken Chandler, G0ORH**

Space does not permit inclusion of the full rules, so an abbreviated version is shown, together with the source of that information. Thanks go to RadCom, QST, and CQ Magazines for without them much of this Data would not be Available.

Welcome, this is my second input to the CDXC newsletter and already I feel I'm getting into the swing of things!, well I hope so anyway. Don, G3XTT's article in Jan 95 edition 'Contest Topics' has been noted and I dare say not a lot could have been done for the Cypriot Amateur as we were in the middle of reorganisation of CDXC Co-ordinator's affairs, but if he's still interested, I expect I can accommodate him in a contest at some time. I can only say that as CDXC's Contest co-ordinator I need input on your requirements for future events, so if you do have an operating slot that needs filling, or, might require so, then let me know, I can do no more.

Over the next few months (I've already started) I will be collating information purely on a voluntary basis to all Members who have the good fortune of having a relatively good, permanent set-up and who would be willing or interested in 'letting' or, as G3XTT puts it, lending his/her station for a particular contest. This has been going on in the USA for some time now and I'm sure it will catch on over here as I know how generous you are!

Secondly, it concerns G0KPW, and the CQWW contest, no, not the SSB event, that's more than adequately dealt with!, no it concerns the CW leg some weeks later. It seems a crying shame that the station has to be broken down so early after so much effort that goes into it just to erect and set it up. Now what's strange is that the operators on CQWW SSB are top flight CW operators G3LNS, G3VHB, G4BUO, G4BWP, G4PIQ to name but a few then surely with a few volunteers and extra operators we could have a very good CQWW CW multi-multi station set-up. So, do we go for it - I'm sure its been discussed before but it needs addressing again, NOW.

And lastly, if anyone is thinking of setting up a largish contest station, then I have 600 acres in Swindon Wilts, so any suggestions.

I have received a letter from Herb G/OZ7SM. Herb is looking for SSB operators for multi/single operations for most major/domestic contests especially ARRL,CQWW SSB/CW. Herb's group is primarily SSB orientated but CW events are a big possibility. Herb has a superb set-up, separate shack in a barn, running water, toilet, and sleeping facilities all perched nicely on a hill with excellent takeoff in all directions. All equipment, radios, linears etc. are provided, it only requires YOU to operate, and as an operator you're in good company. Contact CDXC contest co-ordinator and or Herb for more information.

Below is a list of forth coming contests I hope you find useful.

**Mar 4/5      ARRL INTERNATIONAL DX CONTEST (phone)      (RC Feb 95 QST Dec 93)**

0000-2400Z 160m-10m (no WARC bands) Single,Multi-Single,Multi,Multi-Multi,QRP Sections.  
RS+Power A,5W B,150, C,150Watts or more high power. Points, 3 per qso,Multipliers Max 62 per band.  
Non W/VE Work W/VE, W/VE Work Non W/VE, Easy.

**Mar 11/12      COMMONWEALTH (CW)      (RC Nov 94)**

1200-1200Z 80m-100m Single-ops only,no assistance whatsoever,ie, packet cluster phone calls as if you

would, or any other spotting systems. Single band, Multi-band, SWL Group, RST+Serial Nr. All QSOs in lower 30kHz of bands except for QSOs with novices above 28.030-21.030MHz

NOTE... All UK is one call area, be on the look out for HQ Stns. Commonwealth work

Commonwealth... 120 call areas.

**Mar 18/19 BERMUDA ( CW & Phone )**

(RC Mar 94, QST FEB 94)

0000-2400Z 80m-10m Single-ops only, Max 24hr. RS/T plus serial Nr

Work same stn on same band twice will only count for points, not Multipliers. 5 points per QSO.

UK Work W/VE/VP9, W/VE/VP9 Work UK etc.

**Mar 18/19 BARTG spring RTTY**

(QST Feb 94 )

0200-0200Z 80m-10m Single all band/single band, Multi-op, and SWL Group.

Work once per band only. RST +.serial..Nr...001. POINTS. 1 point per QSO Final score. QSO points times DXCC + W/VE/VK per band, times the continents. Easy. I have rules if required.

**Mar 25/26 CQ world wide WPX (PHONE )**

(CQ Jan 94 QST Feb 94)

0000-2400Z 160m-10m RS.+ serial Nr 001. Single-op single & all band, QRP 5W, Low 100W, High power. Assisted single ops only operate max 36 hrs, Multi-ops all band only, single( 10 min rule ) and multi Tx. Multi-Multi use separate each band, all others use continuous serials. Double points on 160, 80, & 40m. Work everyone once per band. Own country for Multi only. Prefixes count once only, irrespective of band.

**Apr 2 ROPOCO-1 CW (Rotating post codes)**

( RC Mar 94 )

0700-0900 UTC 3520-3570kHz. RST do not send serial. For the FIRST QSO send your own post code, then for each subsequent qso, send the post code received from the previous contact. Easy-have Fun.

That's it for this issue. If you have any input, or running a contest that may be short of operators, let me know, that's what Im here for. I hope you all have a successful contesting month and I look forward to hearing from you.

Any suggestions for inclusion here, contest sites etc, are gladly welcomed. I can be contacted via DX Cluster (@ GB7DXI), In addition to details in the newsletter.

## **HF AWARDS AT RSGB HQ OPEN DAY**

If you have always wanted to apply for some of the RSGB's HF awards, but never wanted to trust your valuable QSL cards to the postal service, then bring them with you to the next HQ open day.

The RSGB Awards Manager, Fred Handscombe, G4BWP, will be in attendance during the day to check those QSL cards and issue your awards.

In addition to the RSGB HF Awards, details of which are given in the 1995 Callbook and Information Directory, cards can be checked by the HF Awards Manager for the Worked All

Continents (WAC) award issued by the IARU, and the Worked All States (WAS) award issued by the ARRL. Application forms will be available on the day for all the awards, or you can get them in advance by sending an SAE to G4BWP (QTHR).

There will be a small display of certificates and plaques that can be claimed, as well as information and advice on certificate hunting.

So if you would like to claim an ward, or just have your questions answered, come and have a chat with the HF Awards Manager at the next HQ Open Day on 22 April.

## **EUROPEAN SPRINT CONTESTS**

**Dave Lawley, G4BUO**

Those who enjoyed the 4-hour AFS contests at the beginning of January may be interested in a new set of contests which cannot be won by the loudest signal sitting on a frequency and calling CQ: the whole point of the sprint type of event is that you must QSY at least 2kHz after CQing and making a contact.

The North American sprints have been running for ten years or so, and generate intense competition. I have always wanted to take part in a sprint but stations outside north America cannot enter. Paolo Cortese I2UIY, obviously felt similarly, and has worked with representatives of several national societies in Europe to create the European Sprint contests. Full rules are given at the end of this article.

Last October saw the first two of these events, but the choice of date was especially unfortunate for us in the UK, and few Gs took part. The dates have been sorted out this year, and a pair of spring sprints has been introduced as well. Like AFS, each contest lasts just four hours.

Understandably, many who would like to take part in more contests cannot commit an entire weekend to operating, but should be able to set aside four hours for operating the sprint.

Top operators in the US make in excess of 300 contacts in the four-hour period, without the luxury of sitting on a frequency and calling CQ. QSO totals on CW and SSB are remarkably similar, with up to a dozen passing the 300 mark each time.

Strategy plays an important part in most contests, but especially the sprint. Everyone starts on 20m, but the time of migration to 40m and then down to 80m is crucial. It is important after QSYing LF to keep an eye

on the higher band(s) to pick up the stragglers. DX antennas are not the order of the day: those who bemoan their lack of tower height may find themselves at an advantage when working European sprinters.

There are several ways of playing the QSY rule: some operators adopt two CQ frequencies, one high in the band and one low. After a CQ has been answered on one VFO, switch to the other VFO and CQ again. More common is a mixture of CQ and search & pounce. Find a station calling CQ which you need to work and call him. When the contact is complete he must move, so you stay on the frequency and call CQ (or QRZ). The station to call you will, in all likelihood, stay on the frequency after your contact, and you must move. So the contest goes on.

One of the sprint's originators, Rusty Epps W6OAT, was especially keen that both callsigns should be given on every exchange. This, together with the search/CQ technique outlined above, led to the evolution of two forms of contest exchange. One is used by the CQer, and the other by the caller. Suppose that, a short way into the contest, G3PMR calls CQ. I reply by sending my callsign. After our contact G3NUG calls. The following is what would happen on the frequency

CQ TEST G3PMR  
G4BUO  
G4BUO G3PMR 12 ALAN  
G3PMR 19 DAVE G4BUO  
R  
G3NUG  
G3NUG G4BUO 20 DAVE  
G4BUO 9 NEV G3NUG  
R

The quick-fire nature of the exchange illustrates how in excess of 300 QSOs might be possible! I expect that in the first couple of years the score will be limited by activity

but it is my hope that the European sprints can become as frantically busy as the NA events. The point about the above exchanges is that the placing of the sender's callsign either near the front of the exchange or at the end signals to someone tuning across the frequency whether the sender is available on that frequency for another contact, or must move.

Several leading US operators use paper and pen for logging in preference to computer, as they feel the PC slows them down. I think this will be my preference in the first contest, but remember that in this contest above all, you cannot CQ all the time so a dup sheet will be essential. In fact, probably three dup sheets: one for each band.

For those irreversibly committed to real-time logging on a PC, top sprinter Tree, N6TR, has put many features into his LOG contesting program specifically for the NA sprint. Keystrokes needed to log QSOs are cut to an absolute minimum (less than CT) and the switching between search and CQ modes described above is neatly handled by the program. At I2UIY's request, Tree has put specific support for the European flavour of the sprint into version 4.19 of his program. In Europe the program is available from: Jonathan Silvergran SM3OJR, Sollidenvagen 65, S-831 43 Ostersund, Sweden (email josi@telub.se) and the price is of the order of 50 dollars. LOG has a simulator mode and I recommend that anyone planning to use a PC during the contest devote several hours before the contest to practising. I also understand that IK4EWK is adapting his logging software to support the European Sprint, although initially this will only be in post-contest mode.

It is interesting to note that most of the leaders in the NA sprints, both phone and CW, come from west of the Mississippi. If there is a geographical advantage in sprint-type contests, we in western Europe could

be well placed. The popularity in the UK of short domestic contests like AFS, Ropoco and the LF cumulatives leads me to think that the sprints could be very popular with G contestants, and I am very keen that we should figure in great numbers in the sprint listings. Below are the official rules: I have copies of official log and cover sheets if required, and I would be happy to give any more information that may be required. Please remember that, with the exception of a little participation in Internet sprints, my knowledge of these contests is gained entirely from reading articles written by US operators, and from listening to them in action. I am looking forward as much as anyone to participating in my first EU sprint.

Dave G4BUO

**1. ENTRANTS** Any licensed station operating from Europe (DXCC definition) may enter the Sprint.

**2. OBJECT** To work as many European stations as possible.

**3. CATEGORIES** Single operator ONLY. Only ONE signal may be aired at one time.

#### **4. DATES**

##### **EU Sprint Spring**

SSB: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in April (15 April 1995)

CW: 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in May (20 May 1995)

##### **EU Sprint Autumn**

SSB: 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday in October (7 Oct 1995)

CW: 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in October (14 Oct 1995)

#### **5. TIME** From 15.00z until 18.59z

**6. BANDS** Only 20, 40 and 80 metres. Recommended frequencies are: 14030-070, 7010-040, 3530-70 on CW and 14220-280, 7040-090 3680-3780 on SSB.

**7. EXCHANGE** All the following data *must* be part of the exchange:

- your callsign
- the other station's callsign
- your serial number starting from 001 (RST is not required)
- your name or nickname Please note that initials of name/surname are *not* allowed, names/nicknames *must be at least 3 (three) letters long.*
- *both* callsigns *must* be repeated by *both* stations. A valid exchange could be "OK2FD de I2UIY 118 Paolo" while "OK2FD 118 Paolo" is *not* a valid exchange.

**8. SPECIAL QSY RULE** If any station solicits a call (by sending CQ, QRZ etc.) he is permitted to work *only* one station on the same frequency. He must thereafter move *at least 2 (two) kHz* before he will call another station or before he will solicit again (CQ, QRZ etc.) other calls.

**9. VALID CONTACTS** Are those correctly logged and confirmed QSOs. The same operator may use *one* and *only* one name during the Sprint, in case of any mistake zero (0) points will be charged for that QSO.

**10. SCORING** Each valid QSO counts one (1) point. The final score is the total number of QSOs.

**11. AWARDS** There are *no* awards or prizes since these competitions have been created only to test individual skills. Results will be forwarded as soon as possible to Leagues, magazines and bulletins.

**12. LOGS** One log only is required in chronological order. A separate summary sheet is also required. Logs must be sent *no later than 15 days* after the contest to these addresses:

**Spring SSB:** Dave Lawley G4BUO, Carramore, Coldharbour Rd, Penshurst, Kent, TN11 8EX, UK

**Spring CW:** Paolo Cortese I2UIY, PO Box 14, 27043 Broni (PV), Italy

**Autumn SSB:** Paolo Cortese I2UIY, PO Box 14, 27043 Broni (PV), Italy

**Autumn CW:** Karel Karamasin OK2FD, Gen. Svobody 636, 674 01 Trebic, Czech Republic

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**DIGITAL MEET SCHEDULED**  
**From ARRL Headquarters**  
**Newington CT**

February 10, 1995 To all radio amateurs

The 14th annual ARRL Digital Communications Conference will be held September 8 to 10 at the LaQuinta Conference Centre in Arlington, Texas, near Dallas. Co-hosts for the conference are Tucson Amateur Packet Radio Inc. (TAPR) and the Texas Packet Radio Society.

The ARRL Digital Communications Conference is an international forum for radio amateurs and experts in digital communication, networking, and related technologies, at which they can meet, publish their work, and present new ideas and techniques for discussion. Presenters and attendees can exchange ideas and learn about recent hardware and software advances, theories, experimental results, and practical applications.

Anyone interested in digital communication is invited to submit a paper for publication in the Conference Proceedings. Attendance at the conference is not required for publication. Papers are due by July 21, 1995, and should be submitted to Maty Weinberg, at ARRL Headquarters.

For more information on the conference, registration, and hotel reservations, contact TAPR at 8987-309 E. Tanque Verde Rd, No. 337, Tucson, AZ 85749-9399 USA. Phone 817-383-0000; Fax 817-566-2544; Internet: tapr@tapr.org.

# THE COLVIN AWARD

Reprinted from QST

The American Radio Relay League Inc Colvin Award.

## Terms of Reference

The Colvin award is funded by an endowment established by Lloyd Colvin, W6KG (SK). Approximately \$6,000 in annual investment income is available.

Consistent with Lloyd's wishes and with the policies of the ARRL Board, the Colvin Award is conferred in the form of grants in support of Amateur Radio projects that promote international goodwill in the field of DX. To minimise overhead costs and the time required to review applications, the Grants Committee consists of three senior members of the ARRL Headquarters staff (at the present time, the Executive Vice President, Membership Services Manager and DXCC Branch Manager) I Newington Connecticut.

## Eligibility

Grants are made only in response to applications that meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be groups (i.e. not individuals) with a favourable track record in the field of DX and with experience that is directly related to the project being proposed.
- The proposed project must have as a goal a significant achievement in the field of DX.
- The application must include a financial plan showing all anticipated expenses, and sources of funding.
- Applicants must agree to provide the ARRL with an electronic copy, in a format specified by the ARRL, of all logs of Amateur Radio contacts made in the course of the

project, and must agree to permit the ARRL to use these logs to verify the contacts.

- If Amateur Radio operation from an inhabited location is envisioned, the application must show how the project will enhance the condition of Amateur Radio in that location.
- Applications must agree to comply with all DXCC rules. If applicable, the application must demonstrate how compliance with Rule 7 (licensing) will be accomplished.
- Applicants must agree in writing to hold harmless and indemnify the League from any claim which may arise in connection with any actions they may take. (The text of the required statement will be supplied by the League.)

Grant applications will be considered from groups seeking support for a project that has already taken place, if it meets the above criteria.

Preference will be given to multinational groups of radio amateurs, all of whom are members in good standing of their own national IARU member-societies.

## Publicity

Appropriate credit to the ARRL and the Colvin Award shall be given on the QSL card and in publicity about the project.

Grant applications should be submitted to:

Colvin Awards Grant Committee  
c/o Secretary  
American Radio Relay League Inc  
225 Main St  
Newington  
CT 06111  
USA  
Fax: 203-665-7531

## FUTURE HIGH SOLAR ACTIVITY FROM OLD SUNSPOT DATA?

**Steve Reed, G0AEV**

Readers of this newsletter will no doubt have noticed the several estimates in the Amateur press of the probable date of the solar minimum and the start of Cycle 23 (e.g. G0OFE in the last CDXC newsletter). It seems that we are not content with short range predictions of radio conditions but want to know what to expect next year and beyond. For those of us who are HF enthusiasts at heart and who dabble on 80 and top band only as long as the sunspots stay away, our thoughts naturally pass over the coming minimum period to the peak conditions of the next cycle.

Just what will the next cycle bring? Recent NOAA (November 1994) predictions suggest a maximum monthly smoothed 10.7 cm solar flux of around 200 units in mid year 2000 - slightly lower levels than those reached last time round. Of course, such predictions are prone to refinement as time passes and more real data are incorporated in the model. Perhaps the next cycle will actually out perform the predictions. For optimists who would prefer to believe that the next cycle will be better than the last, some recent research on past solar data may provide some crumbs of comfort.

Long term trends of solar activity are largely based on historical counts of sunspots. Estimates of sunspot numbers from before 1850 are derived from a compilation of earlier historical records made by the Swiss astronomer Rudolf Wolf. It is the Wolf Sunspot Number that was used to identify the Maunder minimum, a period of very low solar activity in the second half of the 17th century (horror: a 50 year period of almost no spots!). The Wolf data shows the

Maunder minimum was followed by an abrupt return to pronounced "11-year" cycles with high sunspot counts at cycle peaks similar to those recorded this century. A new look at the old data suggests this pattern may be incorrect. The problem is that early astronomers apparently used different criteria to define what constitutes a spot or a group of spots and how these are counted. The new work uses records from selected observatories to calibrate the sunspot counts of earlier data where there is an overlap of these records in time. A large amount of old records has been treated in this way and the calibration method used to derive a new index called the Group Sunspot Number. The trends of this new index with time look quite different to that of the Wolf number. The most interesting difference is the gradual increase in average group sunspots from the end of the Maunder minimum to the present. Of course, individual cycles vary considerably, but overall the group index shows that the most recent cycles have the highest sunspot group numbers.

As there appears to be a correlation between climate and solar activity as measured by sunspots - the Maunder minimum period was characterised by very cold temperatures - scientists are particularly interested in these results and the implications the trend of increasing solar activity has for forecasts of global warming. A secondary implication of interest here is that solar activity, and hence HF radio conditions, may be gradually increasing in the long term. Radio Amateurs may therefore dream of even higher solar activity to come with slightly increased confidence. Field Day participants of the future may be doubly entitled to dream - both warmer summers and better radio conditions!

### References:

- New Scientist, 29 October 1994, page 21.  
Geophysical Research Letters, 1994, vol. 21, page 2067.

## **SOLAR ACTIVITY**

### **DECEMBER '94 - JANUARY '95**

**Jim Smith, G0OFE**

*Ed: Jim has kindly volunteered to make this a regular feature of the Newsletter.*

Solar Activity over December and January has held fairly steady - the average solar flux for December was 84.1 sfu and for January, 82.7 sfu. This is somewhat above the levels we had during last spring and summer, but well down on the same period last year.

The highest flux over the period was 97 units on 13th December and 24th January, and the lowest was 73 units on the 10th January. The running 27 day average (i.e. over one rotation of the sun on its axis as seen from Earth) is quite a good guide to short-term variations in solar activity. This began in December at 80 units, but climbed during the second half of the month to 85 units, dipped to 77 units by mid-January before climbing again to 83 units by the 31st.

A much better guide to the sun's progress towards solar minimum, however, is the smoothed 12-month average in solar flux. The 12-month average as at the end of January (and centred on July 1994) was 83 units. The last few minima have seen the 12 month average drop to 72.8 (Sep 86), 73.5 (May 76), 72.5 (Oct 64) and 69.8 (Apr 54), so we have a little way to go yet before we reach the bottom of Cycle 22.

Geomagnetic activity has been at quite a low level, leading to mostly stable conditions. The 27 day average a-index has varied between 8.3 and 10.7 units, with only 4 days having a value of 20 or more. The highest was 27 units, on the 30th January. The day before this, there was what appeared to be a classic pre-auroral enhancement in F-layer MUFs, with an interesting opening to parts of the USA and the Caribbean on 10m on the late afternoon of the 29th January (Sunday).

## **SDX Cluster Support Group**

**John Dundas, GM0OPS**

GB7SDX DX PacketCluster is located in Glasgow. The cluster first came on-line on the 5th of Dec. 1992 and since then we have managed to construct a network which covers five regions of Scotland. This could not have been done without the support of our user group which now has 90 members. Over the past two years since the cluster was introduced to Scotland we have had the dream, it did seem like one at times, of linking into the main UK/EU DX Cluster Network. The group decided to try and link to GB7YDX in Yorkshire. Plans were drawn up early this year and we had meetings with various Packet Groups from Glasgow down to Yorkshire. To achieve the links down to the North of England four new nodes had to be installed at three sites.

The main idea of the route was to carry BBS traffic to Alnmouth and then the DX traffic to Alnmouth, Durham, EMLEY then to GB7YDX

The link came into operation on the 15th of November 1994 and has been working very well indeed. The next stage in the plan is to upgrade the link to 9600 baud as soon as possible. All of this work would not have been possible without the co-operation and support of the following groups:

- Scottish Digital Communications Group - MacPac
- SDX Cluster Support Group members, some actually got their hands dirty!
- North East Packet Users Group - NEPUG
- Yorkshire Packet Group - YAXPAK
- GB7YDX Support Group

73s John Dundas, GM0OPS, SYSOP  
GB7SDX DX PacketCluster

# THE AUSTRAL ISLANDS & MARQUESAS ISLANDS GOOD FOR DXCC?

By Brendan McCartney, G4DYO

We all know where the Austral Is and Marquesas Is are located, and many of us will have worked them several times. There are resident amateurs on the Marquesas and it is a frequent holiday destination for US amateurs. The Australs are not quite so popular radio-wise, but both groups of islands have been the subject of attention by DXpeditioners at various times in the recent past. However, it was not until 1989 that a major effort was mounted by Paul, F6EXV and Jacky, F2CW and a petition submitted to have the two groups afforded separate country status. The petition cited DXCC Criteria Point 2, Separation By Water from the parent group of French Polynesia. Following eight months of consideration, the DXAC voted 10-6 against recommending separate country status for each island group. In May, 1994 Kan Mizoguchi, JA1BK (FO0MIZ) and Nao Akiyama, NX1L (FO0AKI) operated from both island groups and submitted a petition for DXCC status. This time it was rejected by the DXAC by 14 votes to 2 as "French Polynesia is not a Point 1 country, therefore the islands do not qualify for separate status".

To understand the subject one needs to be conversant with the relevant rules. Here are the points in question, taken from the latest DXCC Rules:

## Point 1, GOVERNMENT

*An independent country or nation-state having sovereignty (that is, a body politic or society united together, occupying a definite territory and having a definite population, politically organised and controlled under one exclusive regime, and engaging in foreign relations - including the capacity to carry out obligations of international law and applicable international agreements)*

*constitutes a separate DXCC country by reason of Government. This may be indicated by membership in the United Nations (UN). However, some nations that possess the attributes of sovereignty are not members of the UN, although these nations may have been recognised by a number of UN-member nations. Recognition is the formal act of one nation committing itself to treat an entity as a sovereign state. There are some entities that have been admitted to the UN that lack the requisite attributes of sovereignty and, as a result, are not recognised by a number of UN-member nations.*

*Other entities which are not totally independent may also be considered for separate DXCC country status by reason of Government. Included are Territories, Protectorates, Dependencies, Associated States, and so on. Such an entity may delegate to another country or international organisation a measure of its authority (such as the conduct of its foreign relations in whole or in part, or other functions such as customs, communications or diplomatic protection) without surrendering its sovereign status. DXCC country status for such an entity is individually considered, based on all the available facts in a particular case. In making a reasonable determination as to whether a sufficient degree of sovereignty exists for DXCC purposes, the following characteristics (list not necessarily all-inclusive) are taken into consideration:*

- (a) *Membership in specialised agencies of the UN, such as the ITU.*
- (b) *Authorised use of ITU-assigned call sign prefixes.*

(c) Diplomatic relations (entering into international agreements and or supporting embassies and consulates), and maintaining a standing army.

(d) Regulation of foreign trade and commerce, customs, immigration and licensing (including landing and operating permits), and the issuance of currency and stamps.

*An entity that qualifies under Point 1, but consists of two or more separate land areas, will be considered a single DXCC country (since none of these areas alone retains an independent capacity to carry out the obligations of sovereignty), unless the areas can qualify under Points 2 or 3.*

## **Point 2, SEPARATION BY WATER:**

*An island or a group of islands which is part of a DXCC country established by reason of Government, Point 1, is considered as a separate DXCC country under the following conditions:*

(a) *The island or islands are situated off shore, geographically separated by a minimum of 225 miles of open water from a continent, another island or group of islands that make up any part of the "parent" DXCC country.*

*For any additional island or islands to qualify as an additional separate DXCC country of countries, such must qualify under Point 2(b).*

(b) *This point applies to the "second" island or island grouping geographically separated from the "first" DXCC country created under Point 2(a). For the second island or island grouping to qualify, at least a 500-mile separation of open water from the first is required, as well as meeting the 225-mile requirement of (a) from the "parent". For any subsequent island(s) to qualify, the 500-mile separation would again have to be met. This precludes, for*

*example, using the 225-mile measurement for each of several islands from the parent country to make several DXCC countries.*

The crux of the matter, in the case of the Marquesas Is and Austral Is, is not a dispute over measurement of distance, or location of the territories: the Austral Islands are some 300+ miles Southwest and the Marquesas Islands almost 290 miles Northeast of their "parent" country and therefore well over 500 miles from each other. So what is the problem?

The problem is whether French Polynesia - the "parent" country - is a Point 1 country, i.e. a sovereign country totally independent from any other country, or whether it is considered to be a part of France. The DXAC does not accept that French Polynesia is a separate entity; therefore the Marquesas Is and Austral Is cannot qualify under the above Point 2. Nao Akiyama, NX1L, has authored a substantial paper on the matter entitled: "*The Case of French Polynesia and the History of Point 1 in favour of The Austral Islands and Marquesas Islands*". In the light of this paper, the Connecticut DX Association is questioning the DXAC decision and the writer of this article believes that members of CDXC, a leading DX organisation, should be aware of the facts and may wish to air their views, either individually or through CDXC.

The following are extracts from Nao's paper:

## **FRENCH POLYNESIA NOT PART OF FRANCE**

French Polynesia is not an entity described as "an independent country or nation-state having sovereignty" in the first half of DXCC Criteria Point 1. It has been a colony of France since 1880, formerly called "French Establishments in Oceania" or "French Oceania".

Is it then part of France? It is not. What comprises the nucleus of France are 95 departments in the mainland, 4 overseas departments and 2 territorial collectivities. The overseas departments are Guadeloupe (FG), Martinique (FM), Reunion (FR) and French Guiana (FY). The territorial collectivities are Mayotte (FH), which remained French when the other Comoro Islands (FH8) became independent in 1975 as the Federal Islamic Republic of the Comoros (D6), and St Pierre et Miquelon (FP). These areas share the same currency, postage stamps, judicial system and telecommunications authority. (In addition, there exists a special-status area, which is the Territory of the French Southern and Antarctic Lands (FT).).

French Polynesia (FO) is neither an overseas department nor a territorial collectivity of France. It is an overseas territory of France, the status of which gives it internal autonomy and power as well as choice of remaining French or becoming an independent nation. Its head of government, the President, is locally elected by popular vote, and not appointed by Paris like the Prefect of an overseas department of France. The other areas which continue to be overseas territories of France are New Caledonia (FK) and Wallis & Futuna islands (FW).

Readers who were active DXers in the seventies or before, when there were much fewer amateur stations and therefore a need of much fewer call sign prefixes than now, remember that it was easy to distinguish the status of Francophone countries. The prefixes for the overseas departments of France always consisted of F plus a letter plus 7, while the numeral in those for the colonies of France or UN trust territories under French administration was usually 8, as follows: FG7, FM7, FR7, FY7, FA3/8/9 (Algeria), FB8 (Madagascar), FB8 (French Southern & Antarctic Lands), FD8 (Togo), FE8 (Cameroon), FF8 (French West Africa),

FH8 (Comoro Is), FI8 (French Indo-China), FP8, FQ8 (French Equatorial Africa), FT4 (Tunisia), FU8 (presently New Hebrides) and FW8.

Since it is not part of France, French Polynesia must meet the second half of point 1 unless it is a so-called "grandfathered" country or a country which was added to the Countries List out of someone's whim. In fact, the second paragraph of Point 1 says "Other entities which are not totally independent may also be considered for separate DXCC country status by reason of Government" and provides for a list of characteristics to measure a "degree of sovereignty". Let us test French Polynesia against this list.

## **FRENCH POLYNESIA A POINT 1 COUNTRY**

Neither Characteristic A nor C is possessed by French Polynesia. Control over foreign policy and defence is vested in the French Republic. This fact, although it does not help determine French Polynesia to be a Point 1 country, should not be taken into consideration adversely. Point 1 says in the same paragraph: "Such an entity may delegate to another country or international organisation a measure of its authority (such as the conduct of its foreign relations in whole or in part, or other functions such as customs, communications or diplomatic protection)."

French Polynesia does possess Characteristic B. "Authorised use of ITU-assigned call sign prefixes" is observed. Self-created or unauthorised prefixes, such as 1A0 (SMOM), 1S (Spratly Islands), 7G (used in Guinea before 70s), AC5 (Bhutan before 70s), M1 (used in San Marino before 80s), PX (used in Andorra before 70s) and S0 (Western Sahara), have never been used in French Polynesia. FO call signs have always been used there and nowhere else. French Polynesia is not an entity like Northern

Cyprus (1B), Karen State (1Z) or Republic of Serbs (X5).

It should be noted that the rule does not say "allocation of international call sign series." Otherwise, it would be a repetition of Characteristic A and would not make sense. Things usually progress in the following order: independence, admission to the United Nations, admission to UN specialised agencies including ITU, and then allocation of international call sign series. For example, VP-VS and ZB-ZF used in British overseas territories are allocated to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. The only exception to this system is Aruba, which "provisionally" acquired P4 through the Kingdom of the Netherlands in 1986 when it was preparing for independence.

Relating to Characteristic A, the following should be given our attention. Club Oceanien de Radio et d'Astronomie (CORA), the organisation of amateurs of French Polynesia is not dependent on Reseau des Emetteurs Francais (REF), the equivalent of ARRL in France. It even has its own seat in the IARU, Article II, para 2, of the Constitution of which says:

There shall be only one Member-Society representing a country or separate territory.

When CORA, founded in 1934, applied for IARU membership in 1983, its election was supported by REF. ARRL was also in favour of CORA's representation of French Polynesia separately from France.

The following areas, whose administrative status is similar to French Polynesia, also have their own IARU member society: Faeroe Islands (OY), Aruba (P4), Netherlands Antilles (PJ), Anguilla (VP2E),Montserrat (VP2M), British Virgin Islands (VP2V), Turks and Caicos Islands (VP5), Bermuda (VP9), Hong Kong (VR2), Gibraltar (ZB) and Cayman Islands (ZF). ARRL cast an affirmative vote for each

one's admission to IARU. (This listing does not necessarily mean that other self-governing areas are not eligible for IARU membership. They may just lack organisation of amateurs with enough interest and strength to perform the duties required of each member society).

French Polynesia does possess Characteristic D. It can have agreements with states and territories in the Pacific in the fields of economy, science, technology and culture, according to Article 39 of its Statute. French Polynesia can also authorise foreign investments up to 80 million French francs. It has its own customs.

The entry formalities in French Polynesia differ from France. For entering France, all you need to do is show your passport to the immigration officer, but all arriving passengers in French Polynesia must submit a disembarkation card and even citizens of France arriving on direct flights from Paris are not exempted.

The licensing authority of France is Centre de Gestion des Radiocommunications (CGR) located near Paris, which is part of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. On the other hand, FO call signs are issued by the Cellule des Postes et Telecommunications (CPT) of the High Commissioner's Office in Papeete, the capital of French Polynesia. CPT is not a branch of CGR, and French Polynesia is not under the jurisdiction of CGR. Consequently, it is not an area where the CEPT licence is valid. As a matter of fact, CGR of France treats amateurs of French Polynesia in the same way as it does those from other foreign countries. At least for the past decade, France has been charging for temporary licences, whereas FO0 callsigns have always been, and still are, issued free of charge.

The currency used in France, its overseas departments and territorial collectivities is

the French franc (FRF), while French Polynesia's currency is the Colonial Pacific franc (CPF). They are not only different, but they are not interchangeable. French Polynesia has its own postage stamps too. They must be used for all mail within and from French Polynesia and cannot be used elsewhere.

Even though it is not listed under Point 1, French Polynesia has its own flag, which may be considered as an additional characteristic.

French is an official language of French Polynesia, but not the only one. The other official language is Tahitian, which must be taught as an obligatory subject in primary schools.

The results of the test are as follows:

Characteristic A	Excused
Characteristic B	Passed
Characteristic C	Excused
Characteristic D	Passed
Characteristic Extra (flag)	Noted

Although Nao believes that the test has been passed easily, some may not agree. If you believe that the test was hard on French Polynesia it is because it was not designed to examine such areas. As a member of the DXCC staff said: "What's the sense in having DXCC status for a rock that's too small for a seagull to sit on, but not for countries with thousands of residents?"

Nao's paper runs to 22 pages and 12 Annexes, which would be impossible to reproduce here. Any readers who wish to examine the paper in more detail are invited to contact the author of this article.

### DID YOU KNOW?(1)...

... that modern DXCC certificates #1 for both mixed and phone were awarded to W1FH in 1947?

### CHEAT!

An Indonesian amateur has been sending mailshots to other amateurs asking for QSL cards for non-existent QSOs. His letter reads:

*I am the member of Indonesian Amateur Radio Organisation. I wish to be considered Prefix Level YB. At this moment I am in the YC position. Herewith information that the Indonesian Amateur Radio Prefix Allocations are:*

1. Beginner YH
2. 1st Level YD or YG
3. 2nd Level YC or YF
4. Last level YB or YE

*One of the qualifications to be YB, I must collecting some QSL cards from foreign countries: SSB & CW, and I need them as soon as possible. By the way, today's propagation is poor and the signal strength from your country is very weak. For which I beg your kindness to the problem. So, I promise that I'll paying them is some time, next, you or your friend needs the same problem. YC0FEO, Mr Handoko (my QSL Mgr) has recommended me to send the problem to you. He said, you're the best friend and so... you'll replying my QSL Card, and.... of course, for which I hope so much.*

*Please find, enclosed, the QSL CARD of mine and I hope you would like replying me : one for SSB and the other one for CW. Send them please via Bureau - POB 1042 Bandung 40010 Indonesia. But if you'll writing me a personal letter, maybe sometime you'll visit my country or maybe you need some informations about Indonesia, please send it to my QTH.*

*I look forward to you reply and thank you in anticipation, I hope God Bless your mutual-aid, while awaiting.*

The cards he sends are for non-existent QSOs. In one case the card was dated over a week after the letter and was received by the amateur concerned before the "QSO"!

*Ed: Tnx G4DYO for this.*

## OH WHAT A HAPPY ENDING!

Dave Mann G0HXN

In July 1994 Mirek Holik OK2VZE, who lives in a small village near BRNO in the east of The Czech Republic visited the UK by bicycle on his annual holiday. He had the misfortune during his trip of visiting a part of Manchester where not everybody is as honest as most. Whilst having a meal in a pub his bicycle was trashed and all his equipment stolen, which included his passport, return ticket on the ferry from Dover to Calais, and his new Alinco handheld. Needless to say his homeward journey experiences with limited language would fill a book. Having spent some time in Czechoslovakia operating as OK8EXN, and visiting Stan OK2BHX who lives in Blansko also near BRNO and coincidentally Mirek's boss, I know the financial hardship that the majority of Czech amateurs have to endure to follow their chosen hobby. Most equipment that I saw whilst I was there was homebrewed to a very high standard, or second-hand, the majority of which was being brought across the border in Austria, or Germany at ham rallies. When you consider that the average monthly salary of the working man is probably less than £100 per month, you can see the considerable financial burden as a percentage of their annual salary.

I received a fax from Stan explaining the circumstances, and giving me the details of the crime report etc. This I circulated in as many magazines and outlets as possible, just on the off chance that the equipment might turn up somewhere for sale. Much to my surprise and delight after the initial inclusion in RadCom an amateur who wishes to remain anonymous wrote pledging £50 to start a fund to replace the handheld. I wrote in RadCom thanking him, and if others thought this way to send cash, cheques to either myself or to Martin Lynch. Just after the New Year I was beginning to think that

soon I would have enough for a good second-hand handheld, when out of the blue arrived a brand new Yaesu handheld also from an anonymous donor, just a note saying "Maybe your Czech friend can use this". To say the least I was overwhelmed. The problem now was how to get it to Mirek safely, and without customs duties which in the Czech Republic are quite horrendous, it would have cost 15% of the value in import duty then 22.5% VAT on top of that. Needless to say there was the usual good club member at the end of a telephone who told me how to go about it quite legally without incurring these taxes. I must admit I found the cost of postage quite expensive, but at least it was insured, and would be delivered I was told within 5 working days?. Sure enough, I posted it on a Monday and Stan notified me the following Sunday on our weekly sked that it was delivered on the Saturday. Up to this point Mirek knew nothing about what was going on, and needless to say he has been totally dumbfounded by the generosity of British amateurs and I also have sufficient cash now left over after postage and the cost of a battery to supply a charger, and also send a cheque to try help offset the cost of replacement of some of his other equipment. Those amateurs who I could identify I have contacted directly, but to those who still remain unknown and maybe are club members - a big thank you from Mirek. I know he is putting together a letter with Stan's help to try and express his feelings. But from my part I was pleasantly surprised at the generosity of all concerned, and restored my faith in human nature which, when you consider where I work takes a bit of a battering at times.

## DID YOU KNOW? (2)...

...That the first of what were to be many additions to the modern DXCC countries list was made in 1947, and published in the July 1947 issue of QST? The new country? The Isle of Man, (GD)!

## D4, CAPE VERDE

### Geoff Brown GJ4ICD

*Reprinted from Six News. Ed: Although primarily a 50MHz operation, I make no apologies for reprinting full details of the D4 operation, as it will also include HF operation.*

No doubt some of you will have heard about the planned 50MHz expedition to the Republic of Cape Verde in the Atlantic Ocean (pronounced Cape Ver-dee).

In April 1994 (before I went to JY) I wrote to Júlio, D44BC (see Six News Issue 42) to see if he could help in obtaining the necessary permission to operate 50MHz, as he had done previously before his equipment failed. On my return from Jordan a letter was received from Júlio, explaining what could be arranged for the summer of 1995. More correspondence followed, and eventually we "got it all together".

#### Proposed Itinerary:

The operators will leave Heathrow around May 30th, and fly to Lisbon in Portugal. After an overnight stay we then depart for Sal, Cap Verde's international airport. On arrival in Sal we then island hop to St. Vicente to the town of Mindelo, which will be the base for the 14 day operation.

The following equipment will be used:

The main radio will be an Icom 736 100 watt. The backup radio will be a Kenwood TS60, also a 100 watt, which will be left with Júlio when we all leave Cape Verde. The antenna will consist of a five element Yagi, or may be a pair stacked, which seems to be quite adequate when considering 5T5JC's results last year, and also Jack's, WB4NFS/VP9, who used an HF vertical and worked over 5000km.

The Icom 736 will return with us when the expedition closes down around the 15th June. It will then be up to Júlio to activate D44 again as he used to do.

HF operations are also planned using a Kenwood TS940 and an Alpha 76 1kW amplifier, and a few beams plus dipoles.

So, we have a great set up, with very little equipment to transport to Cape Verde - just two radios, one antenna, and the usual key, phones, and logs.

#### Cape Verde (HK76MT)

"Cape Verde (republic), comprising Cape Verde Islands, in the Atlantic Ocean, are due west of the westernmost point of Africa, Cape Verde. The archipelago consists of ten islands and five islets, which are divided into windward and leeward groups. The windward group on the north includes Santo Antão, São Vicente, São Nicolau, Sal, and Boa Vista. The leeward group on the south includes São Tiago, Brava, Fogo, and Maio. Cape Verde has a total area of approximately 4033 sq. km (approximately 1557 sq. miles).

The islands are volcanic in origin, and all but three - Sal, Boa Vista, and Maio - are mountainous. The highest point, Pico do Cano (2829m/9281ft) on Fogo, is also the group's only active volcano. The climate is tropical and dry, and subject to extended droughts. The average annual temperature is about 24° C (about 75° F). The annual rainfall averages about 250mm (about 10") and is concentrated in the months from August to October.

Vegetation is sparse and consists of various shrubs, and other drought-resistant species. Wildlife is also limited and includes lizards, monkeys, wild goats, and a variety of bird life. Mineral resources are meagre, and include pozzolana (a volcanic rock used in making cement), salt, and kaolin.

The majority of the people of Cape Verde are of mixed African and European descent and are known as Creoles. Nearly all of the remainder are of pure African stock. The population (1994 estimate) of Cape Verde was 410,000. The overall density was about 90 persons per sq. km (about 225 per sq. mile). The official language is Portuguese; the national language is Crioulo, a Creole dialect of Portuguese incorporating many African elements. Farming, fishing, and construction are the chief economic activities". *Acknowledgement to Microsoft® Encarta. Copyright © 1994 Microsoft Corporation. Copyright © 1994 Funk and Wagnall's Corporation. (Ed: Not Buck Rogers on this occasion!!)*

## Radio Data

The islands are located between 15/17° north and 23/26° west and are about 1650km south-west of the Canary Islands. They are about 4400km from London and under 5000km from central Germany. Given these facts, contacts on 50MHz with Europe look promising, especially the enhanced sea path conditions that should exist.

For the past three years running contacts via multi Es or chordal Es have been made with 9K2USA, 9K2ZR and 9K2MU (S9++) at distances from the UK of around 4600 to 4800km.

The path to the Caribbean and Stateside (only a handful of USA stations have worked DD44BC I'm told) also looks interesting. For instance, in June last year, Eric 5T5JC in Mauritania worked many (100+) USA stations during daylight hours at distances of up to 7000km, and JY7SIX mad a 9800km QSO into USA.

From Cape Verde to FM5 (Martinique) the distance is 3860km; to FY7 it is 3280km, to grid square FN42 (highly populated with 50MHz operators) the path is 5299km. These distances were all exceeded last year via Es on 50MHz.

## MUSTANG

**Brendan McCartney, G4DYO**

See DXNS 1645 et al. Will it or won't it? In response to a requests from the ARRL for information, the Nepal Amateur Radio League provided the following:

1. There is no real army or internal defence force separate from Nepal in Mustang.
2. The same currency, Nepalese Rupee, is used in Mustang. However, in the northern part of Mustang people still employ bartering for transactions.
3. There is no customs check point between Nepal and Mustang.
4. As Mustang is not a sovereign country it does not have any diplomatic relations with any country in the world.
5. Mustang does not have its own postage stamps.
6. Mustang has no separate government. Like all districts of Nepal, the Chief District Officer, appointed by His Majesty's Government, is the administrative chief.
7. All laws, including those related to tax, are the same as the rest of Nepal.

This information has been passed to the members of the DX Advisory Committee and would appear to provide sufficient evidence for a petition to be rejected.

## IOTA EU-006, INISHMAN

**UK PacketCluster Network**

Following our successful trip last may to The Isle Of Skye (GB0SKY), we are pleased to announce our next trip for IOTA. From 13th MAY - 19th MAY 1995 We will be active from the island of Inishman, part of the Aran Is. off the West coast of Ireland. The IOTA reference number is EU-006. We will be signing EJ/home call. We will be active on all HF bands, on the usual IOTA frequencies. the QSL information is via the buro or direct to

CHB ARG. PO BOX 803, HULL, HU7 4BY,  
ENGLAND.

## **GAZA TERRITORY**

### **Brendan McCartney, G4DYO**

Some of you may have heard but, hopefully, not have worked "ZC6B". The station is not an officially authorised amateur radio station so it would be as well to remember the Terms, Provisions and Limitations of your amateur licence!

A local newspaper "Al Quds, dated 5 December, stated:

*"A Palestinian from Gaza made the first communication using the wireless sign which was given to Palestine approximately 50 years ago. Dr Sami Tarazi mentioned that he made a success to use the wireless sign (ZC-6) which the international union for wireless communication designated for Palestine in 1948."*

There has been considerable discussion on the air about the validity of "ZC6B" and certain "net controllers" have stated that the operator is fully authorised and has a letter from the ITU approving the use of the callsign. Some have gone as far as claiming that "ZC6B" is already a new one for DXCC. There is no truth in either claim.

The prefix ZC6 falls within the ITU Prefix Block ZBA-ZJZ, which is officially allocated to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Having been thus allocated, the responsibility for issuing callsigns in that block rests with the UK government department (Radiocommunications Agency) which oversees the use of the radio spectrum in the UK and its overseas territories. The Agency may further delegate responsibility to local offices in those territories. For example, licences for the Falkland Islands, Tristan da Cunha, Bermuda, etc, are issued locally. The United Kingdom Government is not directly involved with the politics of the Gaza Strip and Jericho Area, which is virtually

administered by Israel. It therefore follows that a radio prefix allocated to the UK could not legally be used in that area. This has been confirmed verbally to the writer by the UK Radiocommunications Agency. It is also beyond doubt that the International Telecommunications Agency (ITU) would not approve the use of a callsign allocated to a member state by an individual in another non-member territory. Furthermore, the ITU does not deal with individuals so claims that the operator of "ZC6B" has some sort of special authority from ITU are absurd.

The ARRL DXCC Desk has received no documentation relating to the ZC6 operation and unofficial opinion is that it will be several years before the area achieves the political status necessary for DXCC consideration. Furthermore, no operation illegally using a United Kingdom prefix would be considered for DXCC recognition.

A few quotations from the **Agreement on The Gaza Strip and The Jericho Area**:

*The Palestinian Authority will consist of one body of 24 members..... The PLO shall inform the Government of Israel of the names of the members of the Palestinian Authority and any change of members.*

*The jurisdiction does not include foreign relations, internal security and public order of Settlements and the Military Installation Area and Israelis, and external security.*

*Israel has authority over the Settlements, the Military Installation Area, Israelis, external security, internal security and public order of Settlements, the Military Installation Area and Israelis, and those agreed powers and responsibilities specified in this Agreement.*

*Israel.... shall continue to have the necessary legislative, judicial and executive powers and responsibilities, in accordance with international law.*

*....the Palestinian Authority will not have powers and responsibilities in the sphere of foreign relations, which sphere includes the establishment abroad of embassies, consulates or other types of foreign missions and posts or permitting their establishment in the Gaza Strip or the Jericho Area, the appointment of or admission of diplomatic and consular staff, and the exercise of diplomatic functions.*

All this indicates that Israel is still largely in control, which confirms that the territory cannot qualify for separate DXCC status at this stage. "ZC6B" does not even come into the category of WFWL.

## **CANADIAN SPECIAL PREFIXES FOR WPX CONTESTS**

On 10 February 1995, Industry Canada Quebec Region gave permission for all Canadian Amateurs to use special prefixes to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the end of the Second World War in Europe. This is part of the "Canada Remembers" programme sponsored by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

From 0000 UTC 25 March 1995 through 2359z 28 May 1995, Canadian Amateurs may use special prefixes as follows:

### **Regular Prefix Special Prefix**

VA2	VX2	VA3	VX3
VA7	VX7	VE1	CJ1
VE2	CJ2	VE3	CJ3
VE4	CJ4	VE5	CJ5
VE6	VX6*	VE7	CJ7
VE8	CJ8	VE9	CJ9
VO1	XO5	VO2	XO4
VY1	XN5	VY2	XN4

\*The CJ6 prefix was unavailable in Alberta as there is another special event using that prefix during this period.

## **VALUELESS IRCS? UK PacketCluster Network**

Over the years I have taken note of the concerns expressed by DXNS readers and others about "invalid" IRCS, i.e. those which have not been stamped or which have been stamped on the wrong side.

When I have sold IRCS to the amateur community I have always removed these first. But it had got to the point where I had over 300 of them and it seemed to me that, as someone had paid good money for them in good faith from a Post Office somewhere, then in good faith the UK Post Office should honour them.

I am delighted to say this is the case. A phone call to the PO Counters Helpline (01345 223 344) was advised by my local postmistress, as she was unsure whether she could change them. The Helpline told me to send the IRCS direct to their Customer Service unit with a covering note explaining my predicament. I did this, and this morning received, by registered post, over 300 41p stamps, less than a week after mailing the IRCS.

The address to which I sent the IRCS is:

PO Counters Ltd,  
Customer Services,  
Verulam Point,  
Station Way,  
St. Albans,  
Herts, AL1 5HE

So don't be fooled into throwing incorrectly stamped IRCS away; they really are worth money. 73 Don G3XTT

### **DID YOU KNOW? (3)...**

...That the first DXCC Honor Roll was published in 1947, with W1FH in number 1 spot with 168 countries?!

# **AROUND 1000 ISLANDS IN THE WORLD**

## **UK PacketCluster Network**

Copy of message. From: RA3MR To: DX  
Date: 15-Jan-1995 2221Z

Preliminary program of holding the complex radio expedition "Around 1000 islands in the world"

### **Expedition Organisation**

The expedition is organised by the travellers club of St. Petersburg in common with the club of radio amateurs-travellers "Russian Robinson" (Lipetsk city) and is devoted to the 300th anniversary of Russian fleet with takes place in 1996. Besides that we expect the following firms, companies and organisations to take part:

- Russian geographic society (St. Petersburg)
- International travellers association (Moscow)
- The institute of Arctic and Antarctic (St. Petersburg)
- The institute of Land-surveying and mapping (St. Petersburg)
- "RCE" Ltd firm (Rybinsk)
- "NSI" Ltd firm (Novosibirsk)

All the registering documents and documents for going abroad are prepared through the Travellers club of St. Petersburg (Mr. V.F. Ljubimov & Mr. A.V. Melnikov)

### **Purposes and Tasks of the Expedition.**

1. During the full period of expedition visit not less than 1000 islands (big and small) in the coastal zone of continents all over the world.
2. Operation on the air from those islands that are the most interesting for the world amateur radio programmes such as DXCC,

IOTA, etc. activating this way radiosport on the visited islands.

3. Use as many participants in the expedition as possible including them in a team of short duration (about 1-3 weeks) by the desire of participant) with the next disembarkation in one of the continental ports.
4. Exchange of the historical, ethnographic, cultural legacy of countries participants with the citizens of visited islands.
5. Investigations of places interesting by any value for investigations by historians, archaeologists, ethnographists (with getting all necessary documents and permissions)
6. Creation of video, photo and film materials about the expedition itself and visited places.

### **Transportation and Expedition Financing.**

1. The expedition is equipped by at least two autonomous small sea type ships and one average carrying capacity ship! (up to 500 tonnes) and possibly by two yacht or catamaran type ships.
2. The means of expedition are formed at the expense of payments done by organisers in financial or material form as well as firms using advertisement, separate citizens, participants and sponsors. organisers in financial or material form as well as firms using advertisement, separate citizens, participants and sponsors.
3. Money collection (sponsoring) is carried out via the organisation committee, which uses private expedition accounts.

### **Stages and Period of the Expedition.**

1. Preliminary period of expedition is about 4-5 years.
2. The preparatory stage of the expedition is

planned to be spent in Barents and White seas in about one month beginning from the 1-st of may (start in Rybinsk) for testing the ships, team, equipment, operate on the air from the islands in those seas by IOTA and RRA programs.

3. The basic start of expedition of expedition is planned 15-th (21-th) of June 1995 from St. Petersburg from Petropavlovskaya fortress through Finnish gulf around Europe to Turkey (Israel) in the Mediterranean Sea.

4. Further route is worked out jointly with the RRC, travellers club of St. Petersburg, IOTA committee and other associations and clubs interested in visiting separate islands or archipelagos by the lists of world programmes like DXCC and IOTA.

### **Organisation Committee.**

For carrying out all the preparation steps and conducting the expedition the organisation committee is created for a long period of time in the following staff:

To: Mr. V.F.Ljubimov

Club (person) agrees to take part in the international radio expedition "Around 1000 islands in the world". For directing you an invitation for visiting our country during the expedition we ask to inform us (me) about the staff, route and supposed period of visit.

Signature : \_\_\_\_\_

This application has to be sent to the address of the expedition chief (Alexandr Melnikov!).

Addresses, phones and faxes of the expedition organisers.

Expedition Chief: Vil Fedorovitch Ljubimov, Millionnaya, 5 191065, St. Petersburg, Russia. Tel : (812) 311-60-16, fax : (812) 312-18-26

Alexandr Vladimirovich Melnikov, RA3MR P.O. Box 1, 152914, Rybinsk, Russia. Tel (0855) 27-32-03. Fax : (0855) 26-28-75 'RCE' Telex : 270 210 ptb su 'rce'. Packet : ra3mr@ua9aj.#chel.rus.as

Valery Ivanovitch Sushkov, RW3GW P.O. Box 3, 398000, Lipetsk, Russia. Tel : (0742) 43-43-78. Fax : (0742) 74-48-23

Welcome to take part in our expedition !

Note by CDXC Chairman: There seems to be growing support for us to sponsor Roger Balister G3KMA to participate in the above project for a period of at least five years. Given his position as Director of the IOTA Programme, as President of CDXC and as a top notch HF operator he is the ideal candidate and will be able to verify operations from the new ones on the spot.

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### **ISLANDS GALORE!**

*Reprinted from The Bangkok Post - tnx K3ZO*

Indonesia has acquired to about 4000 previously unknown islands, a press report said from Jakarta.

The Suara Karya daily quoted the Head of the National Survey and Mapping Co-ordinating Agency, Paul Sutopo, as saying that the country -- which already boasts 13000 islands -- has registered a further 4000 islands after a recent geographical survey.

The newly discovered islands are thought to have been submerged when the last such survey was conducted. About 600 of the 4000 new islands have been given names.

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### **DID YOU KNOW? (4)...**

... that the first recorded instance of an amateur SSB QSO took place in 1947, between W6YX and WOTQK? Quite a busy year, 1947!

## **WILL 'KMA ISSUE A NUMBER??**

The Balister Banks, previously uncharted, are the result of a little known geologic phenomenon *Figmentia Imaginatae*, which results in the creation of a small outcropping of the ocean floor rising above sea level for a brief time. These small islands, or banks, just over a mile in length and well off shore, most frequently occur late at night and feature a small beach area permitting easy landing.

**PREMIER OPERATION FROM  
*The Balister Banks*  
IOTA EU-(TBA\*)**

# **G3KMA/P**

**RADIO WØOZY DATE 1 DEC 94**

**UTC 1345 FQ MHz 21 RST 56 MODE 2xSSB**

**PSE QSL      73, ROGER R.**

**(\*To be announced)**

Roger, G3KMA, to relieve the pressures of directing the IOTA programme, took to sea in a small boat from Northern England to find solace and contentment on the water. Shortly, he came upon what later proved to be the Balister Banks. He landed, set up his radio equipment and, on his first ever IOTA

DXpedition, made contact with 51 stations in six countries before the sea began to encroach and he was forced to leave. As he sailed away the Banks disappeared beneath the waves. Roger has applied for an IOTA number for this operation, which he may soon grant. His only public comment on the operation thus far is "It was like a dream."

## **SPRATLY ISLAND HOLIDAYS??**

**UK PacketCluster Network**

The December 1994 edition of Airports International reports that the Taiwanese government is proposing to develop an airport on Taiping Island in the Spratly group in a bid to open up islands in the South China Sea to tourism.

Maybe Spratly won't be so rare in years to come.

73 de Les G3VQO (op at GX4GTT)

## **WALL-TO-WALL SUNSHINE IN THE WINDWARD ISLANDS**

### **Herb Asmussen, G/OZ7SM**

After the dreadful weather in December and January we thought it would be nice to enjoy some better weather in the Caribbean islands. So we finally booked a trip to St. Maarten in PJ7-land (or if you hop a few miles to the north you are in St. Martin, FS-land!). We stayed at the Sheraton Hotel on the ground floor, so apart from a few QSOs as PJ7/OZ7SM with PJ8AD and my 'regulars' from 14188 not much was achieved with the Barker and Williams window mounted whip of just 3 feet. But what can you expect?

The weather was excellent and we took our time to get adjusted to the climate. Many people sing songs about the super duper shopping, but we found it rather boring, in particular with several thousands of cruise ship tourists filling the streets.

### **PJ8AD**

On Wednesday, 25th Jan. we boarded a small De Havilland Twin Otter STOL from St. Maarten to Saba in order to have the first eyeball QSO with PJ8AD (ex KV4AD) after many years of QSOs on many bands. Now, I had received some prior warning from Bert about the landing conditions on Saba and although I learned to fly in VS6-land, which is no chicken feed, I must say that heading right on to the main volcano (and that's what Saba is all about) and slipping down and dropping the speed so all you could hear was the stall warning and then reversing the power and 'finita la musica' there was the end of the runway. Those guys sure know what short field landings are all about.

So finally the great bearug with old-timer PJ8AD who was there to meet us. I hate to say it, but Bert ca-chunked the sparks 7 years before I was born. And I will be 65 shortly after you read this. So you figure out

the rest yourself! Bert took us up to his hillside QTH where we met XYL Suzy and had a much needed welcome drink after the exciting landing and the almost equally exciting hillclimb up to Bert's QTH. I did a fair bit of hillclimb racing in my earlier days in Hong Kong, but Maura was really wondering whether we were going up or down. Bert has a lovely house on the hillside of the main volcano and people insist that it is extinct. I hope they are right. Looking down from their terrace the runway of the airport looks like an airmail sticker attached to the side of the volcano! In order to keep in good shape Bert has built his shack about 50 steps up the hillside, and it is a shack as 'ole Jeeves' could not have described any better in the former issues of QST! Having been hurt a number of times both in St. Thomas and Saba during the dreaded hurricanes Bert has invested wise money in self reliance and next to his shack is his own power plant, all singing and dancing with auto start-up and shut down. Nice job, Bert.

- A no-nonsense PRO-57 on an Aluma tower does the rest of the job. So no wonder you always hear that bombing signal from PJ8AD. We spent a wonderful day on Saba but needless to say that the highlight was to meet the person behind the voice of that well known callsign! On our return flight we made a stop-over on St. Eustacius, or 'Stacia' as the locals call it. The strip is a bit longer and not hair-raising at all.

### **St. BARTHELMY**

On the 28th of January we moved to our final destination: St. Barthelemy or FJ-land. Bert had silently warned me that the landing there is a bit hairy too, and right he was. You see no runway at all and whoops you go over a hump and dive straight down as if you want to drill a hole in the runway. But those guys surely know to get the speed off the plane and land in a stall. If they would not know their job you would get your feet wet, as the extension of the runway is the beach! We found that out a few days later!

We had very little info regarding the villa we had rented prior to our departure, but Maura had reluctantly agreed that I take 'some' radio. - Fortunately we had hired a 4-wheel-drive jeep and I followed the 'rental-girl' up to the house. I was rather exhausted, not from the 10 min flight, but everybody drives like they have stolen the motor and as we found out later even kids can hire scooters and small motor bikes and they go like bats out of hell! The last few hundred yards are probably the steepest I have ever driven, and probably even steeper than the roads on Saba! However, once there, we were more than compensated for the stress: the accommodation was better than we had expected in every sense. The location was just below the highest point on the island at an altitude of approx. 900 ft! Clear view from N to S and overlooking Marigot Bay and the Grand and the Petit Cul de Sac. These are all very beautiful bays with excellent beaches and restaurants.

## WIRES IN THE SKY

I had taken a double dipole for 17 and 20 m and a good reel of 20lbs test fishing line plus my trusted 'Marksman' catapult. So one end up into highest trees and the other ends on the gutter of the house. The rig was a TS50S and unfortunately I had to use my Yaesu switching power supply, the pancake version. The good bit about this PS is, that it is easily changed from 110 to 220, but the bad bit is, that it radiates with spurious and that proved to be a nuisance in spite of placing it several meters away from aerial and rig.

I started up on 28 Jan at 23:23 Z as FJ/OZ7SM and it was just unbelievable how the Q's were rolling in. There is a lot of truth in the old saying: location, location, location!! If I had had better info regarding the place, I would have brought lots of wire and a small ATU. I could easily have made a Zele 20m wire beam and dipoles for 40 and 80 would also have been a snap! I tried to

load up the B&W whip but I could not get all the sauce into it, although I heard a number of EU stns on 40. After a stormy night the aerial came down and at the crack of dawn I was out to fix the problem. I had just tied the fishing line to a branch and was about to step down on a stone when I saw the stone moving! It turned out to be turtle about 1 1/2 ft in length.

## PROBLEMS

Unfortunately, not all was plain sailing. Maura started to feel feverish after a few days and the following morning I was working a EU-pile-up when I broke out in sweat and started to shiver and had to go QRT. It turned out that we had both contracted Dengue Fever. It is transmitted by mosquitoes and although not as serious as Malaria, it is nevertheless quite unpleasant and it kept Maura 'under the weather' for a whole week.

## OPERATING STATISTICS

I spent a fair amount of time on 20 when there were DX openings and it was very nice once again to sit at the other end of a pile-up. I totalled 2010 Q's and I think I'm close to 100 C's, but have not counted them yet. There is not a single JA in the log, but VK9NS and several other VKs and ZLs. The 'last two letter brigade' was a bit of a pain and so were some W-old-timers who kept the rate down by telling their entire family history.

It is probably not widely known, that St. Barthelemy once was a Swedish possession and the capital is named 'Gustavia' after the then Swedish king. The road to this place leads by the airport and where it leads over the 'hump' it is literally in the extension of the runway. Precisely when we negotiated the hump, a plane perhaps 50 ft above our little Jeep roared past us, coming out of nowhere. I was somewhat rattled, but my passenger turned very pale!

## HOMeward Bound

Our return trip was not uneventful either: We left St. Barts. on the Twin Otter on time for the 10 min trip to St. Maarten and after 3 hrs waiting we boarded the Air France 747 bound for Paris - we thought. Anyway, we made a 1 1/2 hour stop in Martinique. We had both been fantasising about a super breakfast at the Paris airport. On arrival, quelle surprise: all restaurants and bars were on strike!

Three hours later we boarded the plane on our last hop to Birmingham. After sitting in the plane for 1 1/2 hr the captain announced that some passengers had not shown up, so we had to go through a luggage security check. That took another hour and after completion the captain announced that due to the strike of the fire brigade our departure would be delayed by another 1 1/2 hour! Voila!

Eventually we made it and were happy to be greeted by George, G3LNS, with whom we had kept regular contact.



Photo: Herb, G/OZ7SM (left) and Bert (PJ8AD) in Bert's shack

## NFD '95

Please note - the rules for NFD '95 have not been published in RadCom.

PLEASE NOTE, there is a MAJOR change to Rule 4 regarding equipment.

If you want to know what this is and also this year's date, could I (G3SJJ) please ask

you to contact the RadCom office and request that THEY SEND YOU a full copy of the rules. Please impress on RadCom that since this is a major event, considerable planning is required particularly in view of the change in the rules.

In addition, the Committee needs to plan inspections.

# YAESU UK NEWS

January 1995

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## Yaesu DX-Caribe Cruise '95

Yaesu U.S.A. is pleased to announce it's sponsorship of "DX-Caribe Cruise '95", the second in a series of Amateur Radio theme cruises, to be held 18-25 June, 1995.

Sailing from Aruba on board Dolphin Line's S.S. Ocean Breeze, passengers on the DX-Caribe Cruise '95 will make stops in Dominica, Barbados, Martinique and Curacao, before returning to Aruba. While on board in international waters, two fully-equipped Yaesu HF stations will allow maritime mobile operation. At each shore stopover, optional shore excursions will provide the opportunity for passengers to operate "DXpedition" style from beach locations; current plans are for operation from three HF stations plus 6 metres, OSCAR and 2 metre EME (Moonbounce).

Entertainment on the ship, besides Dolphin's evening floor shows includes presentations by Roger Balister, G3KMA (Director of the RSGB IOTA Programme) (*Ed and President of CDXC*), Charles K. "Rusty" Eppss, W6OAT (Director of the North California DX Foundation), Gordon West, WB6NOA (renowned instructor and writer), and Yaesu's cruise staff. While at sea, a wide variety of workshops and other activities will cover many areas of Amateur Radio activity.

Information regarding the DX-Caribe Cruise '95, including booking of ship and airline passage is being handled *exclusively* by Landry & Kling Inc., 1390 South Dixie Highway (Suite 1207), Coral Gables, FL 33146. Inquires from outside the United States are heartily welcomed and may be directed via **Fax** to Landry & Kling at 0101-305-661-0977 or via Yaesu UK Tel: 0181-814-2001.

## Two New Rotators for 1995

Yaesu is proud to announce two new rotators for 1995.

### G-2800SDX

The new G-2800SDX replaces the G-2700 rotator as the flagship in the Yaesu range. New planetary gear construction features increased braking torque and pin-point accuracy down to 1/2 degree. A 450 degree turning radius with variable speed control and a variable pre-set is included. All this is built into a smaller rotator housing that will fit most towers.

### G-450XL

The G-450XL is a new economy priced rotator for smaller HF beams and UHF/VHF arrays. Features include a 360 degree turning radius with overlap and a radial compass style readout display.

### Need a Part or Extra Manual?

Looking for a Yaesu part or manual? Give the Yaesu Parts Department a call on

0181-814-2001. They are open from 0900-1730 Monday - Friday.

### FT1000 - !CAUTION!

My warning about the FT-1000 relates to the external antenna jack that is selected by the front panel's RX ANT switch *it is not protected* and severe damage can be done to the antenna input circuitry and the PC board of the FT-1000's RF BOARD if this jack is subjected to high levels of RF. What's "high"? ... dunno ... sad tale follows:

I have a dedicated, insulated, top loaded 70' tower with 120 radials for 80/160M. Nearby (about 20' and end-on) is a 135' C/F Zepp that is tuned to 80M by a Matchbox. A run of Phillystran ties one end of the Zepp to the tower ... not an uncommon situation.

I've used an outdoor 6' loop (with built-in preamp) on 160M for many years and on several different rigs. An interest in finishing off 5BDXCC with a few more countries on 80M led me to try the 80M Zepp as a receiving antenna and so connected it to the FT-1000's RX ANT input. It worked as expected ... "quieter" than the tower.

Tuned up the amplifier to 1.5 kW and - immediately- smelled smoke!

Traced the smell to the FT-1000 and was dismayed to find it essentially

dead on all bands. My first thought was that something had failed in the antenna relay circuit of the amp, but not so. Took the rig to the bench and as soon as pulled off the bottom cover saw the little black spots on the PC board where components used to be. Enough to make a guy say; "Shucks!"

Connected a Bird (50W HF element) and dummy load to the cable from the Matchbox that had fed the RX ANT input and keyed the amp again the meter gently pegged at 50+ watts!

The loop's preamp had taken the pounding from 1.5 kW on 160 for years, and of course had protected the various receiver's inputs from damage.

I caution those of you who may use or be thinking of using any sort of passive (unamplified) antennas for receiving to do so with care. I'll be building #49 lamp (60 mA) and 1/100 amp fuse boxes for both the FT-1000 and the FT-990, AND measuring RF levels before I try this scheme again.

I would think that there must be others out there, at multi stations for example, who have been "burned" by this "gotcha!" surely, I'm not the only one?

Oh - the input to the FT-1000's BPF filter is *protected* and (in theory) can be used as an auxiliary RX input in the presence of strong

transmitted signals - with its frequency-range limitations, of course - but the second receiver's performance is terrible - yes, I have the 600 HZ filter.

Talked with Chip at Yaesu and arranged to send just the board for repair expected to have to buy complete board - came back in about four weeks - so "pretty" thought they had tossed the old board and sent new one - but it was mine. The workmanship was *excellent* hard to tell where the damage was and the cost was only about \$70 - I'm *impressed!*

73! de Ken Kopp/KOPP

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### TS940 - !CAUTION!

The above warning also applies to older (TS940 and earlier) Kenwood equipment with the transverter DIN jack. The RX input is equally unprotected on these rigs.

73,  
Bob  
KR2J

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### TRANSNISTRIAN MOLDOVAN REP

According to QRZ DX this is another of several Soviet areas that claim independence. "TMR", located in eastern Moldova, wants to be independent, a situation Moldova has been unable to prevent. TMR has issued postage stamps but they are not valid in international mail.

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### DXCC - SUPER FAST TURN- AROUND

The ARRL's DXCC desk is turning around DXCC Applications/Up-dates really fast these days. An update posted to them on 16 Jan, was processed and received back within less than two weeks. Remember the time when the turn-around was measured in large fractions of a year! A great improvement. (Tnx G3TXF)

## **AN "XYL'S VIEW"**

**Trish Cheadle**

When G3NUG was working full time in Europe for 5 days a week, it was quite understandable that he would wish to spend some hours in the radio room at weekends. He actually started from the moment he got home on Friday evening (no matter how late) just to see if he'd missed anything! I have since learnt that there is much more activity in the winter than the summer, so again, I assumed that we would have time to do things in the summer. Are all XYL's so naive!

Neville retired a few years ago, but I would never have known except now the day is interrupted for the odd coffee, meals (eaten in record time) and a gin and tonic at the stroke of 6pm.

Now, winter time over, I look forward to some long walks with the dogs, socialising with a few friends and some conversation over longer meal times. So what happened. Neville now finds that he needs to be on a few committee's and also needs to extend his aerial capacity!!!

During the year, we have had a few special postal deliveries in the shape of oblongs, 10ft by 4ins by 6ins. I hear that the earth is changing and that propagation is setting new limits for the radio amateur, whereby our two very large aerials are having to start having babies! Now isn't this going to be fun. I already cut the lawn with great difficulty, nearly lassoing myself on the numerous guys I have to negotiate. What is in store for me now. Well, I should have known.

Suddenly, I find that we can no longer eat at the table, as the plans have been laid out - and hundreds of screws, washers and other varying sizes of pieces of metal are laid out on display. Isn't that a beautiful sight, shouts of voice from somewhere - knowing that if he had been in the same room as me, he

might have got a back hander (North country term for a clout around the ear, verbally) Well, this was the start.

Something then appeared to be growing outside the lounge on the lawn. And it was big. Now if we had wanted to eat outside on a hot summers day - this too had become a no-no. The benches were now being used to support what looked like scaffolding for a new building site. I could be wrong! A few days later, Neville had opened all the upstairs windows, and had a ladder up the side of the house. What could be happening?

While I was cutting the lawn, I could see a body, half suspended from the bedroom window with a camera at the ready. I thought perhaps the dogs were playing and he was trying to get a good shot of them, but realising that he was still there when the dogs had disappeared, I thought it must be me he wanted on the back of the tractor. So, I straightened my jeans, tipped up my head and smiled. Get out of the way, he shouted, you're in range of my aerial. Well, never have so many photographs been taken by one man in so many positions. They say beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

Well, we are going on holiday for 3 weeks now - normally it would be we two plus aerial. This time we are going with Neville's mum plus an extra bag with two months of unread radio books. By the end of the holiday I will probably be delighted that he will be found again in his radio room, being quiet and being out of the way. When we retire for real in 10 years time, and if we are still on speaking terms - I may be able to write and tell you that he no longer needs me to cut the lawn, as it has been removed and it is just 3 acres of aerials and wires, etc., etc.

What a dream - thank God when I woke up this morning and looked out of the window, things were just as they were. But.....watch this space!!!!!!

# THE AEA KK-1 KEYBOARD KEYER

**Alan Jubb, G3PMR**

The AEA KK-1 Keyboard Keyer is much more than just a keyboard keyer, having the following main functions

- Keyboard keyer with many features
- Paddle driven iambic keyer
- Code practice keyer

## Physical

The KK-1 is a light grey box, more or less the shape of a book that won't quite close. It sits with the 'spine' forwards, and the book covers act as the base and front panel. The latter contains a four character display and 3cm diameter control knob. The back holds connectors for power, PC, keyboard, paddle, keyer output, plus a push button power on/off switch and a side-tone volume adjustment. Dimensions are 173mm wide, by 120mm deep. Height is approximately 25mm at the front, and 60mm at the rear.

## Installation

The KK-1 is connected to the PC's keyboard port via a supplied cable, and the 84 or 101 key AT keyboard is plugged into the back of the KK-1. The KK-1 is connected to the transceiver's key jack. *This cable is not supplied.* The paddle key, if required, can be plugged in to the rear of the KK-1. Note that it is possible to run the KK-1 without the PC, just using the PC's keyboard. Power requirements are 10-16v DC @ 350mA. One gripe is that the headphone socket is of the miniature jack type, and so won't take the standard headphone jack.

## Switching between KK-1 and PC

When sharing the keyboard between the PC and the KK-1, the keyboard must be toggled

between the PC and the KK-1. When connected to the KK-1, the KK-1 indicates '-PC-' on its 4 character display. Toggling is done by simultaneously pressing both <shift> keys and the <ctrl> key. This requires both hands and therefore *makes it cumbersome, if not impractical, to use seriously as a keyboard keyer in association with computer logging.*

## General

The KK-1 has its own side-tone, which is toggled on/off by means of the <tab> key. Side-tone volume is adjustable, by means of a screwdriver. Side-tone frequency is adjustable by simultaneously pressing <shift> and <tab>, and turning the control knob on the KK-1's front panel. A wide range of side-tone frequencies is provided (200-2500Hz)

The KK-1 can be put into *tune* mode using the <caps lock> key. In this mode, a steady side-tone is provided, and the transmitter is permanently keyed.

Sending speed may be set either from the keyboard or using the control knob. The speed range is 5 to 90 wpm. Average speed may be set to be less than character speed - this affects inter-character and inter-word spacing. Weighting may be increased or decreased relative to the normal 1:3 dot/dash ratio.

## Message Buffers

The KK-1 has twelve message buffers which are sent using <F1> to <F12>. The total buffer size appeared to be 7913 characters. Loading characters into the message buffers is simplicity itself - for example to load a message into buffer 1, press <shift><F1>, enter the message, and terminate with <esc>. There does not appear to be any method of editing messages after they have been entered and the <esc> has been pressed, although messages can be corrected whilst entering, using <backspace>. Messages can

contain pauses, e.g. for sending of specific call signs. However, when paused, any code to be sent must be done using a paddle key - keyboard characters go into the type ahead buffer (see below), and don't get sent until the message has been completed. A message may call another message (but not recursively!), and can be arranged to automatically repeat after a 1-99 second delay.

## Keyboard Keyer

Having set all your preferences as described above, to use the KK-1 as a keyboard keyer, you just start typing! As one would expect, the sent code is clean and well formed.

In addition to the message buffers described above, the KK-1 has a 255 character type ahead buffer, allowing characters to be typed at a faster rate than they are being sent. The KK-1 display indicates the remaining buffer length as you type.

A useful feature is the ability to put the KK-1 into pause mode. In this way you can type messages into the type ahead buffer without them being sent. Thus you can compose a reply whilst listening to the other station, send it at the touch of a key, and repeat the message automatically if the remote station didn't copy it first time.

For contest use, an automatically incrementing serial number can be inserted into text sent from the keyboard, or from message buffers. The number is sent from the keyboard using <\*> from the numeric keypad. The number can also be easily manually incremented or decremented using the <+> or <-> keys from the numeric keypad.

## Using a Paddle

A paddle can be used in parallel with and in combination with the keyboard functions. I tried this function with my single paddle

Jones Key, and my dual paddle G4ZPY key, with no problems

When using a paddle, the send speed is set as described above, but the average sending speed setting is ignored, as that is now determined by the user of the key.

## Code Practice

The KK-1 can generate pseudo random groups of characters ad infinitum at your chosen speed. You can select the maximum group length, the type of characters (letters, letters and numbers, numbers, letters numbers and common punctuation, or letters, numbers and all punctuation. There is no facility for numbers only.). Because the sequence is pseudo-random, it is possible to restart and repeat a sequence you are having difficulty with, a very useful facility. This is done by specifying the same seed for the pseudo random sequence generator as before. Other parameters must, of course, be the same as well.

Another useful feature of the practice mode is the ability of the KK-1 to generate pseudo random groups of commonly used words of up to six characters, plus Q codes.

The character generator can easily be interrupted to enable sending, and then restarted.

## Operating Manual

The KK-1 comes with a clearly written 42 page A5 Operating Manual. I found this very good, the only gripe being that there is no shipping list, which made it difficult to check that I had all the bits when unpacking and re-packing.

## Conclusion

If you are into CW sending from a keyboard, then the KK-1 will do an excellent job for you, although it is, I feel, a trifle expensive at £229.95. If you use computer logging, you

would probably need to purchase an extra keyboard - the <shift><shift><ctrl> to toggle one keyboard between PC and keyer is a nightmare.

If you just want a keyer for your paddle, and don't want to bother with keyboard sending, then you are probably better off buying a straightforward memory keyer such as the Airwave Systems Microkey at £119.

As a CW practice generator the KK-1 seems fine.

Many thanks to Martin Lynch, G4HKS, for the loan of the review unit. The KK-1 is available from Martin Lynch, G4HKS, 140-142 Northfield Avenue, Ealing, London W13 9SB, Tel 0181 566 1120.

## HELP WITH HISTORY

The Antique Wireless Association is building a replica of the famous 1BCG transmitter used in the 1921 ARRL Transatlantic Tests--the first to send a complete message across the Atlantic.

The AWA hopes to have the transmitter operating sometime this fall and to be able to work amateurs who participated in the 1921 Tests.

The AWA knows of only one licensed amateur (other than 1BCG) still active who was heard by Paul Godley, in England--Jim Russell, now W8BU, then 8BU. Another participant, Bob Morris, W2LV, also is still active. The AWA would like to hear from other amateurs who might have heard 1BCG during the Tests, including amateurs in the US. 1BCG was operated from East Greenwich, Connecticut, by members of the pioneering Radio Club of America.

1BCG was on 230 meters in 1921--the AWA, using the call sign W2AN, will put the replica station on 160 meters. The transmitter will be identical in all respects

except that a 204 vacuum tube, vintage 1923 or 1924, will be used.

Details of the ARRL Transatlantic Tests appeared in February 1922 QST and have been reprinted in several ARRL publications.

If you can help, contact AWA Curator Bruce Kelley, W2ICE, 59 Main Street, Bloomfield, NY 14469, USA

## KNIGHTS OF THE OCEANS

*Reprinted from the Hong Kong Standard*

In an accident in which two Chinese ferries collided off Black Point, the Hong Kong Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre was instrumental in searching for and rescuing passengers.

The centre, as an independent unit, came into being in 1989 when it was split from the Vehicle Traffic Centre.

The centre has no aircraft, helicopter or boat to pull victims from troubled waters, but it plays the most crucial part in the life-saving process: communications.

For example, in the recent accident, the centre was responsible for giving directives to the Marine Police and the Government Flying Service, and co-ordinating efforts with rescue centres in Guangdong and Shekou in China. The importance of communications is more evident if a boat in trouble is a long way from the shorelines. How can a lonely boat bobbing in the inky blackness deliver its distress message to its potential saviours?

To accomplish its lifesaving mission, the centre is equipped with a full range of communications equipment.

From telephone, telex and fax, to "AFTN" (the aeronautical fixed telecommunications network), the centre has a global communications capacity. Because of the nature of its job, the centre must be capable

of communicating with ships in the sea, rescue centres and shipping agents around the world, local teams, and the media.

The shore-to-sea link is the most difficult to establish. The invention of radio at the turn of the last century was a great leap forward.

For example, in 1912, 700 lives were saved from the sinking *Titanic* because a radio message was picked up by a nearby liner, the *Carpathia*. Since the 1970s, advances in digital technology and satellite transmission have initiated another revolution.

During the 1980s, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) planned a new system for the safety of mariners at sea. It is called the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System. Hong Kong, as an associate member of the IMO, has an obligation to comply with the new standards. The latest technologies used by the centre include Navtex, a simple data broadcast system of information relating to maritime safety information and weather reports. Since August 1993 all vessels are required by international law to have Navtex receivers on board. Ships which are fitted with either Inmarsat "M" or "B" equipment, can be connected directly to the centre and may be in direct touch with the controller by pushing an alarm button.

Subsequently, the controller can initiate distress alerts using the Inmarsat "C" SafetyNET by sending a message from a computer directly to Perth in Australia for transmission to the Indian Ocean satellites.

Alternatively, a relay of the distress alert can also be initiated on the Digital Selective Calling (DSC) system to an appropriate frequency to alert other vessels in the area.

This same equipment is also capable of receiving a distress alert from a vessel in trouble. The centre's area of responsibility extends as far south as latitude 10 degrees north and as far east as the Philippines, with

the coasts of Vietnam and China forming the western and northern borders.

This area approximates to 450,000 square miles, which is the size of South Africa, and twice the size of France. Hong Kong should be proud of the international honour of being the guardian of such a big area. It is an award for Hong Kong's commitment to safeguarding seafarer's safety.

Distress signals can come from many sources. It can be a message from the ship in distress, from a foreign rescue centre, from the Marine Department, from a marine radio station, or through satellite from an emergency position-indicating radio beacon which emits a signal automatically upon immersion in sea water.

Receiving the signal is only the first step. The next step is to identify the vessel, its owner, agent and managers, flag state, vessel type and number of people on board.

To assist in the process the members of the centre have compiled a database, collecting information from all the vessels which have been in Hong Kong waters.

Rescue centres in Europe and America often phone in to seek information on vessels in distress.

Another part of the job is verification of the distress signal. Very often, false alarms are activated through human or machine error. Centre staff will talk to the vessel, its owner, agent and neighbouring rescue centres to find out the real situation.

According to Philip Weaver, senior marine officer and search and rescue co-ordinator (*Ed: Phil is CDXC member VS6CT*), the centre receives about 200 enquiries every year. Of these, about 60 to 80 call for action. These cases may be about casualties - calling for instant evacuation of sick sailors, or about a fire, man-overboard or a shipwreck.

According to Mr Weaver, there have been reports of piracy, but unfortunately the centre cannot help other than to broadcast a warning to other boats in the area.

If help is needed, the centre directs its efforts to determining the type of assistance required, and then a search and rescue plan is drawn up. Officers are then fully engaged in tracking of the progress of the execution of the plan, updating participants on any changes to the distress situation co-ordinating support requirements and documenting all activity associated with the mission.

The centre operates 24 hours a day with one duty officer and one marine inspector on duty at all times.

The controllers are fully qualified British or Commonwealth master mariners who have experience as ship's masters.

Each officer will also have undergone intensive training in search and rescue techniques either at the United States Coast Guard Search-and-Rescue Training School or in Hong Kong.

*Ed: The article included a photograph of VS6CT on duty, which, unfortunately was not of sufficient quality to reproduce. In the photograph, Phil was surrounded by masses of equipment, some of which displayed the figures 14.163.000. I wonder if it was a frequency display??*

## CHINA DENIES BUILDING BASES IN SPRATLAYS

BEIJING, China denied yesterday that it is building military installations on the disputed Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, believed to have rich oil and gas deposits.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said fishery authorities had built facilities to protect fishermen and their boats. He denied Philippine claims that two Chinese warships were in the area.

Philippine President Fidel Ramos said Wednesday that reconnaissance photographs revealed Chinese ships were in the waters around the islands, and steel structures had been built on the archipelago.

## NEW 160m INTERNET REFLECTOR *Bill Hein, AA6TT*

Dear 160m DXer,

I have set up an Internet reflector *TopBand* dedicated to 160m DXing, contesting, and related topics:

- 160m DXpedition rumors and facts.
- 160m activity reports.
- Low band propagation.
- 160m contest results and recaps.
- Beverage antennas.
- And so on...

It is my intention that the TopBand postings will cover the world of 160m DXing and contesting in more detail than the [dx@unbc.edu](mailto:dx@unbc.edu) and [cq-contest@tgv.com](mailto:cq-contest@tgv.com) Internet lists. TopBand is for 160m fanatics and die hards!

If you would like to subscribe to the TopBand, please email "[topband-request@frontier.net](mailto:topband-request@frontier.net)" with the message "subscribe TopBand"

To post a message to the TopBand mailing list, email "[topband@frontier.net](mailto:topband@frontier.net)". You must be a subscriber to post to the list.

I am using the Majordomo Internet mailing list software and hope for quick (immediate) distribution of posted messages.

I hope to make TopBand available in digest format in the near future.

See you on 160m.

Bill Hein, AA6TT

*Ed: So far as I can recall, th Newsletter has never contained anything about 160m DXing. How about one of you top band buffs writing something?*

## REALLY ACCURATE TIME FROM YOUR PC

**Murray Greenman CSc**  
**G0PFG/ZL1BPU**

*Ed: Ever been about to start a major contest, but been doubtful about the exact time? This article, which is a much abbreviated version of Murray's complete article, describes a clever way of ensuring that your PC's clock is spot on. Copies of the complete article, and the associated software are available from Murray at 4 Hereford Close, Somersham, Cambs, PE17 3JY. Email: murray@pires.co.uk.*

*Packet: G0PFG@GB7MHD Please send an SASE and state disk size and required format - the choice is 5.25" 1.2M, 3.5" 720k or 3.5" 1.4M.*

**Abstract:** A description of the time broadcast service offered by the National Physical Laboratory from Rugby, a simple method of decoding the information on a PC, discussion of the hardware required and an example of a suitable program.

### NPL Transmissions from Rugby

The MSF transmitter at Rugby transmits standard time and frequency on 60kHz with

a power of 27kW. It is usable throughout Britain and much of Europe. The carrier frequency accuracy is within 2 parts in  $10^{12}$ . MSF transmits two time codes, the "Fast Code" and the "Slow Code". Codes are transmitted as carrier on-off keying and are suited to automatic decoding. The slow code is typically used by "Radio Clocks". Other similar services are available around the world but unfortunately use different coding methods (See Appendix 1). Those from DCF77 (Germany) and WWVB (USA) are described briefly in the full article.

#### Fast Code

Following second 00 of each minute, 27 useful data bits are transmitted at 100 baud. This data contains the time of day, date and parity information. The fast code is not as easy as the slow code to decode with simple equipment and it contains less information.

#### Slow Code

Slow Code transmissions consist of varying length interruptions of carrier every second. Each second starts with a 100ms carrier break, the start of this representing the actual start of the UTC second. It is followed by two data bits each 100ms long, then 700ms of carrier. During the data bits **carrier on** represents binary 0 and **carrier off** represents binary 1.

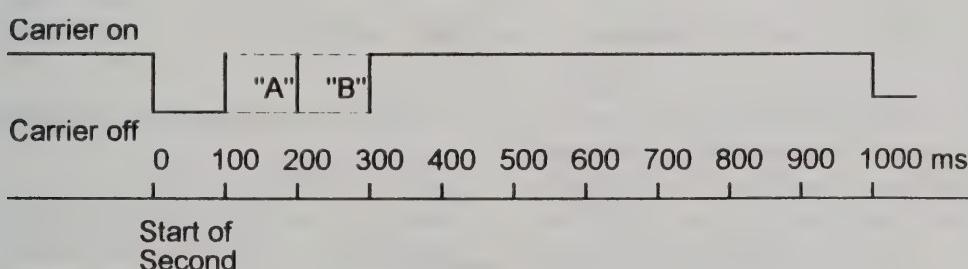


FIG. 1

The accuracy of received seconds marks depends on the transmitter and antenna risetime, the receiver bandwidth and the risetime of the receiver filters. The edge defining the second is likely to be delayed by up to 10 - 20ms as received by typical receivers.

Two data bits are transmitted every second except second 00, which contains the 27 "Fast Code" bits. Many bits are currently unused. The first data bit in each second is the "A" bit and typically contains the time information (see Table 1). The second bit is the "B" bit and contains parity checks and various other bits of information (see Table 2). The NPL named and numbered each of the bits for the second in which they are nominally transmitted. The time the Slow Code spells out is that of the following minute.

Table 1 shows the data transmitted at each second throughout the minute. There is a

complication - most of the data can move in time by plus or minus one second because leap second signals can be added or subtracted during the minute. This is done at second 16, prior to sending the time code. This lengthens or shortens the minute by one second.

The time code bits may be  $\pm 1$  sec from the nominal time when a leap second is added or subtracted in that minute. The secret is to decode the time by counting back from the following minute marker to ensure correct data. When a second is added/subtracted as a leap second, the following minute marker represents the start of the new (leaped) minute. Since the leap second is in reality placed at second 59 of the preceding minute, the seconds following where the leap second is signalled (second 16) will be out in time by one second. This has no effect on the time decoding operation.

**Table 1. "A" Data Bit Table.**

Name	Weight	Meaning	Name	Weight	Meaning
01A to 15A		Reserved for future use	*36A	4	BCD Day of Week 00-06
			*37A	2	" (00=Sunday)
			*38A	1	"
16A and *16A		Leap second added or subtracted	*39A	20	BCD Hour of Day 00-23
			*40A	10	"
*17A	80	BCD Year 00-99	*41A	8	"
*18A	40	"	*42A	4	"
*19A	20	"	*43A	2	"
*20A	10	"	*44A	1	"
*21A	8	"	*45A	40	BCD Minute 00-59
*22A	4	"	*46A	20	"
*23A	2	"	*47A	10	"
*24A	1	"	*48A	8	"
*25A	10	BCD Month 01-12	*49A	4	"
*26A	8	"	*50A	2	"
*27A	4	"	*51A	1	"
*28A	2	"	*52A		0 Minute ID flag
*29A	1	"	*53A	1	"
*30A	20	BCD Day/Month 01-31	*54A	1	"
*31A	10	"	*55A	1	"
*32A	8	"	*56A	1	"
*33A	4	"	*57A	1	"
*34A	2	"	*58A	1	"
*35A	1	"	*59A	0	"

It is common for simple receivers to misinterpret the data sent in second 00 (the fast code) as one or more slow code data bits, so counting back from the following minute mark usefully removes this error as well.

If there are multiple errors in the data, it is possible for the parity to still be correct. For best performance, a slow code clock can ensure the validity of the data by a correlation check. Any update of local time by received time may take place only if:

- (a) the parity of the new minute information is correct, and
- (b) date/time received for new minute matches that for last minute + one minute

If this method is used, (provided the clock has a good local time reference crystal) the clock will keep local time during signal loss (every Tuesday from 1000 - 1400z plus two weeks over summer) and will only update to correct information. The clock will be immune to substantial amounts of noise on the signal as it only requires two consecutive correct measurements every few days to keep in sync with MSF. When MSF is not available the clock could use the German station DCF77.

The slow code can be received at great range under noisy conditions because the receiver bandwidth can be very narrow (typically a few hundred Hz), correlation and error detection can be used. Analogue data detection and DSP correlation techniques would yield excellent results.

**Table 2.**

Name	Weight	Meaning
01B	>= +1	DUT1 difference in
02B	>= +2	100 x ms
03B	>= +3	(BST/GMT > UTC)
04B	>= +4	"
05B	>= +5	"
06B	>= +6	"
07B	>= +7	"
08B	>= +8	"
09B	>= -1	DUT1 difference in
10B	>= -2	100 x ms
11B	>= -3	(BST/GMT < UTC)
12B	>= -4	"
13B	>= -5	"
14B	>= -6	"
15B	>= -7	"
16B	>= -8	"

**"B" Data Bit Table.**

Name	Weight	Meaning
*17B		Reserved for future use
*52B		
*53B	ON	Set to 1 for 60 min prior to Summer Time change
*54B		Odd parity of year (*17A - *24A)
*55B		Odd parity of month and day of month (*25A - *35A)
*56B		Odd parity of day of week (*36A - *38A)
*57B		Odd parity of hours and minutes (*39A - *51A)
*58B	+1	BST offset (Summer Time)
*59B		0 Reserved for future use

## Decoding the Information with a PC

The alert reader with a knowledge of serial communications will recognise the slow code format as asynchronous serial data words transmitted once per second. All the programs I have seen for decoding this information have either simply timed from the start of the second and looked at the level after 150ms, or measured the time from

the start of the second to return of carrier. Both these methods are processor time intensive and cannot easily provide both A and B data bits. Some programs also require specialised hardware in the PC.

I reasoned that since each PC is equipped with at least one device intended for reception of serial data, we might as well make use of it. This device is called a UART

(Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter). These are used in the PC's COM ports. The two big advantages of using the UART are (a) that it does the timing for you, and (b) it presents the processor with an interrupt when it has a new character.

If you look closely at the Slow Code format illustrated in Fig. 1, it consists of a 100ms carrier break followed by two 100ms data bits and 700ms of carrier. This looked to me like a serial word with a start bit, two data bits and a very long stop bit - at 10 baud. I reasoned that if I could slow down the PC UART to 10 baud I should be able to treat the data as a 7 bit data word with one start bit and one stop bit, simply ignoring all but the first two data bits. These first two bits would represent the A and B data.

Unfortunately none of the software facilities in the PC DOS, BIOS or languages directly support UART operation at very slow rates. The slowest I have found is 75 baud, provided by GWBASIC. This meant that I had to delve into the hardware and find out about the programming of UART baud rates. It transpired that the UART used in most PCs will operate at well below 10 baud by programming the registers correctly. (*Ed: get a copy of the program to see how this is done.*)

Once you have a UART operating at the correct rate, you then have to present it with MSF data and process the characters received. Because the UART provides an interrupt to the processor when a character is received, it is easy to operate the actual reception of data as a "background" process. It would be conceivable to operate the time reception as a "TSR" (terminate and stay resident) program which keeps time for you while you use the computer for something else. I have illustrated the method in one of my programs, by using the "foreground" time to update the display and look for commands from the keyboard.

## Receiving the MSF Signal

Very few people will have a 60kHz receiver in the shack! There are a number of options you could pursue. You could:

- Modify your HF transceiver so that it tunes down to 60kHz (which I did with my Kenwood TS-430S)
- Buy one of the available kits for MSF reception (I recommend the Maplin one)
- Buy a receiver with LF reception (such as the Lowe HF225)
- Build your own receiver or a converter for your HF receiver
- Modify a long wave receiver to tune to 60kHz (an old car radio would be fine)

Most operational amplifiers will work well at 60kHz, so you could build a receiver with a ferrite rod antenna and FET preamp followed by a couple of CMOS op amps as twin tee filters, then an AM detector and slicer. The slicer output stage should swing from positive to negative to drive the RS232 interface of the PC COM port and the output should be positive when the carrier is off. No AGC would be required as the signal level is fairly stable - just use a pot as "RF" gain control between the preamp and first op amp.

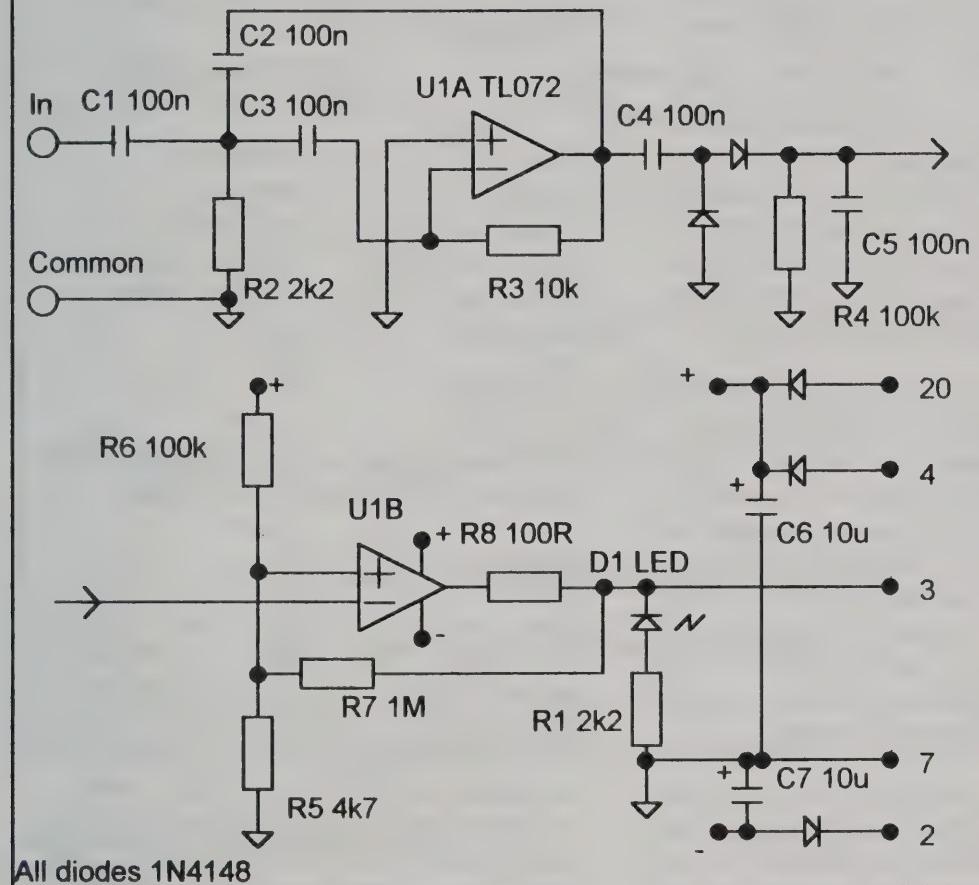
The Maplin design uses an NE567 tone decoder as data demodulator. This clever circuit is very tolerant of signal level and needs no gain control. It also treats the antenna and preamp as a separate module that you can site well away from PC and electrical noises, which is a very good idea.

Fig. 2 shows a very simple detector and slicer with just one op amp that can be used with an SSB/CW receiver - it also works for

CW reception. It takes the audio tone from the receiver in CW mode and generates the required RS232 signal. This unit is built onto a DB25 connector and derives its power from the PC COM port, so is very convenient. The

detector includes an LED, so all you do is adjust the audio on the receiver until the LED blinks reliably. Other CW detectors would be equally suitable.

### Simple MSF Demodulator.



**Fig. 2**

*Ed: The remainder of Murray's article gives listings and design details of the software, details of other time transmissions, and other useful information. I recommend that you get the full article from Murray if you are at all interested in this subject.*

### References.

*Maplin Clock Receiver, Maplin Kit LP70M.*

*The REWbichron MSF Clock, John Robinson, R&EW Magazine, April 1982.*

*MSF 60kHz Time Code, NPL data sheet DES h 099, May 1994.*

*Standard Frequency and Time Transmissions, NPL list of standard time and frequency transmissions with useful addresses, NPL/JPC/940607, June 1994.*

*Time Signal and Standard Frequency Transmitter DCF77, PTB data sheet (in English)*

*NIST Time and Frequency Services, US Dept of Commerce brochure NIST 432, 1990.*

## **CONWAY REEF DXPEDITION 1995**

It is once more time to turn the beams to the Pacific! A group of four brave amateurs are going to spite the sun cycle, winds, sharks, reefs, crabs, birds and even worse, the notorious ticks that are on this rare Pacific location. We will try to give the deserving yet another chance to work this rare DXCC country.

We expect to arrive on Conway Reef on March 24, and stay until April 3. For ten days we will try to win the battle against the ticks as well as make a good performance for the DX community. This plan gives us two complete weekends on the reef with the first one being during the WPX contest.

We intend to have three stations with 1kW, of which two will be on 24 hours a day. There will be beams for all higher bands including the WARC bands, and verticals for the low bands. Due to the sun cycle, we will make every effort to make sure that the low bands will get a good coverage as well as to try to give the needing in Europe a more than fair chance to work us. We will also bring RTTY equipment which is the main purpose of use for the third station.

The operators will be OH1RY, NI6T, SM6CAS, SM7PKK, and we are still considering one more to join us. The call sign for this operation is not yet decided, but will be available within a short time. The preferred frequencies we will use are as follows:

<b>CW</b>	<b>SSB</b>	<b>RTTY</b>
1823	1843	-
3503/23	3785	-
7003/23	7085	7030
10103	10135	10120
14003/23	14195	14082
18071	18115	18100
21003/23	21295	21082
24893	24935	-
28023	28495	28082

We will always listen up and will try to use minimum bandspread in the pileup.

This DXpedition is very costly and any financial support is greatly appreciated. Any such support as well as questions regarding the DXpedition should be directed to SM7PKK, the team co-ordinator. The rough budget is about \$15,000 US, not including the personal tickets or hotels.

There will be two QSL routes:

<b>SSB</b>	<b>CW/RTTY</b>
G4WFZ	SM7PKK
Philip Marsh	Mats Persson
28 Orcheston Road	Zenithgatan 24 # 5
Bournemouth	S-212 14 Malmö
BH8 8SR	Sweden
Dorset	
Great Britain	

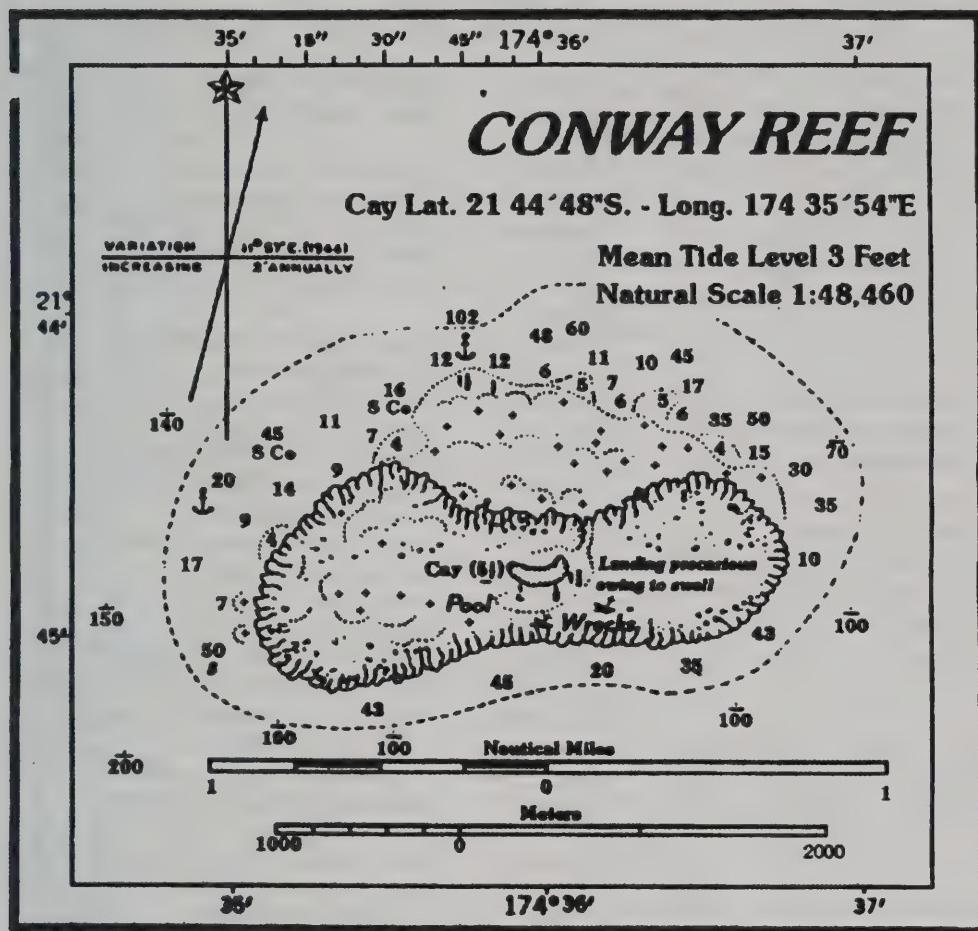
*PS Please do not use the old address of SM7PKK. Only the one above is valid!*

### **Conway Reef**

The island is about 200m long and 50m wide. In the map below, only the little banana shaped piece is the actual island during high tide. Due to a strong hurricane in 1994 the size of the cay might have decreased a little. How much, nobody knows. The Fiji authorities have tried to plant coconut trees there, but with no real luck. There is some vegetation on the cay. There are lots of boobies as well as hermit crabs. Due to the birds, there are a lot of ticks, which is the biggest menace to anyone visiting the island. Due to the low shape and limited vegetation, it can be very windy at times, so it is essential to firmly fasten everything. The weather can change rapidly and so do the currents around the reef. Because of the reef's character, it is only possible to land at high tide, and in daylight, as not even a dinghy can pass over the coral heads at low tide. Extreme caution has to be taken while approaching the reef as you can't see it until you are very close to it, and

the first indication of the reef being there is that you can see the mist from the waves

breaking over its outer reef.



## MEMBER'S ADVERTISEMENTS

This is a reminder to all, and information for new members, that private advertisements may be placed in the Newsletter free of charge.

Advertisements should be relevant to amateur radio, e.g. rigs, antennas, PCs etc..

Commercial adverts are available also, on a page basis. The charge for these depends on the page position within the Newsletter. Please contact G3PMR for more information.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST

Included with this Newsletter should be a copy of the current Newsletter, including all new members whose details I had by February 26th.

Would all, and new members in particular, please check their details. Any errors should be notified to the Treasurer, Mike Potter, whose address is on the front cover of the Newsletter. Mike may also be contacted via PacketCluster at GB7BPQ.

## DESIGNED FOR THE DESERVING

To enhance your membership of CDXC, we have produced a select range of Desirable Designer Goodies ( well almost designer ) All carry the distinctive CDXC Logo. There are Paperweights in Marble that can be used as small plaques. Award yourself for all your unrecorded DX achievements ! These are quite heavy so Postage is expensive dependent on destination. Cost only 2-50 Plus Post at normal rates.

As one of the key members of the UK DX Foundation can you afford to be without a CDXC key ring and well worth the 1-50 again Plus Postage ?

Finally, the ultimate tool to confirm those Rubber Stamp QSOs Yes a CDXC Rubber Stamp. With this you can really put CDXC on the map, or anywhere else ! A gift like all our Goodies at 5-00 plus Postage.

All are available direct from Neville Cheadle, G3NUG, or to save Postage, will be on sale at the Annual Review Meeting and Summer Get Together in July.

Payment can only be accepted in UK Funds and if sending a cheque to include Postage leave the amount blank with a maximum amount stated if necessary.

Supplies are limited so lets have your orders NOW !!!!

New members should also note that G3WGV's popular PC contest logging software, LOG, is available from Alan Jubb, G3PMR. The registration fee is £25.00, which includes 12 months support. All proceeds from sales of LOG go to CDXC funds - thanks to G3WGV for his generosity on this.

CDXC QSL cards, which have attracted a lot of favourable comments from DX stations, and certainly help your card to be noticed, are available from Ian Shephard, G4LJF

## WELCOME!!

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome the following new members to CDXC:

2E0AAX	Emma Wills, Salisbury
9H3HR/	James Aspinall, Gozo
G4ZAW	
BRS25209	Reg Akhurst, Chatham
BRS25429	David Whitaker, Harrogate
BRS48462	A.W. Tideswell, Stoke-On-Trent
BV5AF	Bolon Lin, Changhua City
CT3FT/	Cedric Rourke, Porto Santo Island
GI3IVJ	
DJ9ZB	Franz Langner, Ettenheim
DL2ECZ	Gerhard Hohn, Jüchen
DL9SC	Carl Schalhorn, Aalen
G0ATX	Tony Clark, Cam, Glos
G0FSP	John Pears, Hemel Hempstead
G0MYR	Robin Worsley, Redruth
G0SWG	Scott Earle, Didcot
G3LHJ	Derrick Webber, Newton Abbot
G3RVM	Ian Trusson, Thatcham
G3TMA	Ian Buffham, Spalding
G3UMV	Paul B Johnson, Alcester
G3VIE	Peter De La Mothe, Wokingham
G3YBO	Roger Baines, Chesterfield
G4GMW	Martyn Weaver, Bristol
G4IFB	Dr. G Hinson, Calne
G4SND	Mike Newey, Stourport on Severn
G4SOZ	Derek Herd, Hellington, Norfolk
G4SVB	Tony Gatrell, Lewes
G4UOL	Steven Muster, Westcliff on Sea
G4VXT	Barry Phillimore, Ampthill
G8VL	J.I. Sinclair, Weybridge
G10TJJ	Alexander Hamilton, Lisburn
G13VYY	Brian G Hamilton, Ballyclare
GW3ARS	John Sagar, Portcawl
GW3HGJ	D.M. Foster, Chepstow
GW3NXR	Terry Miles, Carmarthen
LA6LHA	Harald Gule, Ålesund
LX1DM	Marc Minutti, Rumelange
ON4IZ	Henry Van Kets, Drongen
PY2DBU	Hélio Carlota, Jundiaí
VK5WO	Austin Condon, Laura

I hope that all of you enjoy being members of CDXC, *The UK DX Foundation*, and that, where possible, you will get involved in CDXC activities.

David Mann, G0HXN, Secretary

*Ed: BV5AF is President of the Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League (CTARL).*

## DX CALENDAR

### DXNS

NOW	9X5EE	Jun 10-11	S America CW Contest
NOW ?	VU ANDAMAN IS	Jun 10-11	ANARTS RTTY Contest
Til Mar	VIXANT	Jun 17-18	All Asian CW Contest
Til Mar	4S7RPG	Jun 24-25	RSGB 160m CW Contest
Til Mar 8	9M8PFB	Jul 1	Canada Day Contest
Til Mar 18	P4 by VE's	Jul-Jul 96	5X1MW
Til Apr	9Q5FH	Jul 1-2	YV SSB Contest
Til Apr ?	YA/PA3BTQ	Jul 8-9	IARU HF Championship
Til Apr 6	9Q/9U/9X	Jul 15	HK CW/SSB Contest
Til mid-Apr	PJ9JT	Jul 15-16	SEANET CW Contest
Til Apr 20	D6 by ON4QM	Jul 29-30	YV CW Contest
Til Jun??	K8VIR - Pacific	Aug 5-6	YO CW/SSB Contest
Til Jun ?	TG/KE4LWT	Aug 12-13	WAE CW Contest
Til Jun 16	7S3OWG	Aug 19-20	SARTG RTTY Contest
Til Aug	OH1NOA/OD5	Aug 19-20	SEANET SSB Contest
Til Dec	FT5XK	Sep 2-3	All Asian SSB Ctst
Til Dec	S SHET by SP's	Sep 3	LZ CW Contest
Til Dec 31	PI50 pfx	Sep 9-10	WAE SSB Contest
Til 1996	AF-X32 5H1JB	Sep 16-17	Scandinav. CW Ctst
Til Jan 96	J55UAB	Sep 23-24	CQWW RTTY Contest
Til Aug 96	FH by F5CQ	Sep 23-24	Scandinav. SSB Ctst
Mar-Sep	ZD8WD	Oct 1	IRSA CW Championship
Mar	OC-058 OC-079?	Oct 7-8	IRSA SSB Championsh.
Mar 1-6	VP2M by W's	Oct 7-8	VK/ZL/OC SSB Contest
Mar 1-8	PJ7 by W's	Oct 8	RSGB 10-15m SSB Ctst
Mar 3-7	VP2ENR	Oct 13-15	IOTA CONVENTION
Mar 4-5	ARRL SSB Contest	Oct 14-15	VK/ZL/OC CW Contest
Mar 4-5	BARTG Spring Contest	Oct 22	RSGB 15m CW Contest
Mar 8-13	P40 by YU1NR	Oct 28-29	CQWW SSB Contest
Mar 10-12	NA-082	Nov 10-12	JA SSB Contest
Mar 24-Apr 3	CONWAY REEF	Nov 11-12	RSGB 160m CW Contest
Mar 25-26	CQWW WPX SSB Ctst	Nov 11-12	OK SSB/CW Contest
Apr 1-2	SP DX CW Contest	Nov 11-12	WAEDC RTTY Contest
Apr 7-9	JA HF CW Contest	Nov 18-19	Oceania QRP CW Ctst
Apr 10-16	DU0 Spratly	Nov 18-19	Austrian CW Contest
Apr 15-16	Holyland DX Contest	Nov 25-26	CQWW CW Contest
Apr 21-23	VISALIA 95	Dec 1-3	ARRL 160m CW Contest
Apr 28-30	DAYTON 95	Dec 2-3	EA CW Contest
Apr 29-30	Helvetia Contest	Dec 9-10	ARRL10m CW/SSB Ctst
Apr/May	NAVASSA		
May 1-31	Sp PA5 pfxs		
May 6-7	ARI CW/SSB Contest		
May 13-14	CQ-M Contest CW/SSB		
May 20-22	ITU Contest CW/SSB		
May 27-28	CQWW WPX CW Contest		

### THAT'S ALL FOR THIS TIME

Well, that's about it for this time - another mammoth issue, thanks to all the contributors. Please keep the input coming - it's the quality of member's input that makes this Newsletter as good as it is. 73 Alan Jubb, G3PMR.

## PENALLT TROPHY

This beautiful silver cup was donated to CDXC by the Western DX Group in 1990, as a memorial to the late Allan Phillips, GW0BIC, and is named after the town of Penallt in Gwent, where Allan lived. He was greatly interested in DX working on the lower frequency bands and under the terms of the donation, CDXC members may compete for the cup on an annual basis by working as many countries as possible during a specified period on the lower frequency bands (7, 3.5 and 1.8MHz). Steve, GW4BLE has now won the cup three times, and is to be congratulated on his efforts.

The rules for the competition were set by John Forward, G3HTA, acting on behalf of and in full consultation with the donors. However, it seems that there have been problems as some additions were made to the rules when they were first published in 1990. These changes require that a minimum of 100 countries had to be worked during the competition period. As a result of the 100 country requirement, there has been little interest in the competition and the number of entries has been minimal.

The Committee have been concerned at this lack of interest and have been considering changes to the rules to make the competition more attractive to members. Following discussion with John Forward, who has fully agreed the changes, these have now been finalised, and are as follows:

1. The competition is open to all paid-up members of The Chiltern DX Club.
2. The object of the competition is for the entrant to contact as many countries as possible on the 1.8, 3.5, and 7MHz bands during a seven day period in the months of December and January. The same stations or countries may be contacted on each of the three bands irrespective of mode. Only one contact

per band per station/country is permitted.

3. The score is the sum of the countries worked on the three bands during the seven day period. Proof of contact may be required.
4. There are no restrictions as to operating times, dates or modes and the entrant may choose any seven day period within the two specified months. For the purposes of this competition, a seven day period is from 0000z Saturday to 2359z Friday.
5. The entrant will be required to submit a log showing date and time of each contact, and band, mode, and name of each country worked. A summary sheet should also be submitted which should list the countries worked on each of the three bands. If preferred, the entrant may submit photocopies of the relevant parts of the station log, with those countries claimed for the competition entry clearly marked. The summary sheet should also be submitted.
6. Logs and summary sheets should be sent to Ron Glaisher, G6LX, 279 Addiscombe Road, Croydon, CR0 7HY. The closing date for logs is April 1st of each year, and all entries must be sent to arrive before the closing date.
7. The Penallt Trophy will be presented at the CDXC Annual Dinner, or at the RSGB HF Convention. The winner will hold the trophy for a period of one year. It will be the responsibility of the winner to arrange insurance cover on the trophy during the period that it is held, and to return the trophy to the CDXC Awards Manager prior to the end of the twelve months.

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## KLM Antennas

**KLM** has been missing from the UK for too long - so we have brought them back ! Vine has been appointed UK dealer and we have a wide choice for you - both VHF and HF. KLM's trapless KT34A and KT34-XA have been setting the pace for tribanders for many years. These trapless antennas are rated at 4kW, and use low-loss linear resonators to implement high performance on 20-15-10 metres.

KLM's HF range includes 3 el yagis for 80m (Who is going to be the UK first with one ?) and the unmatched 6 el "big-stick" 20m monobander on a 57 foot boom. KLM have 40m beams from two to four elements, all with linear loaded 46 ft. elements.

For the VHF/UHF enthusiast why not try some EME with the famed KLM 16-LBX on a 28 ft boom. If you have tried top band and found it easy - EME's the answer !

For more details on these and other fine antennas - Contact Ron, GW3YDX at Vine.

Evening and weekend calls are very welcome.

## Force 12

If you worked YK0A, or Roger G3SXW at 9G5AA you will have heard the signals from Force 12 Antennas. YK0A used two C-3 tribanders, and an EF-240 yagi on 40m. The 20m and 15m yagis at 9G5 were Force 12 monobanders. Remember the signals ! - G3SXW's words on Force 12 "Excellent in all respects !"

Vine is proud to be Force 12's European agent, and presents a choice of over 70 HF beams from the Force 12 stable. Force 12's C-3 tribander - 7 low profile elements on an 18 ft boom - represents a significant advance in tribander design. Elements for all 3 HF bands are full size and the feed is via the low loss open-sleeve arrangement. Force 12 also make multiband no-trap antennas for normal and WARC band coverage. Their Dxer (20-17-15m) is just the job for this part of the sunspot cycle. Later on the little 1012 (12 and 10m) can be stacked on the same mast to make a lightweight continuous coverage system with NO lossy traps.

We also offer Rotators, Cable, Wire and all you need to make your system a better one, be it on HF or VHF . With lots of experience of DXing, contests and (yes) even EME we can TALK TURKEY about antennas.

# IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL READERS

Twelve months ago, Lynchy was telling you why an extra 1 year warranty really wasn't necessary. Things are more reliable, blah, blah, why don't we all give 10 years, blah, blah and loads more. You still persisted in asking for longer warranties so we think you will approve of this one.

## ENTER THE FIVE YEAR UK WARRANTY FOR AMATEUR RADIO!

No joke. This is serious. Purchase a new piece of gear from Martin Lynch and he'll offer you the chance of a whole FIVE YEARS WARRANTY, covering parts & labour but excluding "dial lights"; (you mean you can't change a bulb??). In the event of a break down, the warranty also includes COLLECTION & DELIVERY on the U.K. mainland.

Furthermore, buy a USED piece of gear from him and he could offer you a staggering FIFTEEN months warranty. For the cynics amongst you, it does cost. But before you pooh-pooh it, think about this. Three chaps in February bought FT-1000's from him. All three wanted FIVE YEARS. (They probably got it when their wives saw the invoice). For less than the cost of ONE HOURS labour per year, they now have TOTAL PEACE OF MIND. That new Dual Band Handie you've just bought could have had FIVE YEARS WARRANTY for under £14 a year. Oh, and another thing. If you sell on your equipment before the FIVE YEARS has expired, the new owner can have the warranty transferred, at no extra cost. That instantly increases the "re-sale" value. Good isn't it? Think about it next time you buy a new or used piece of kit.

If you would like more details or have purchased equipment from MARTIN LYNCH within the last SIX MONTHS, then hurry. The extended warranty could still be available to you.

**5 Year UK  
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Amateur  
Radio Products**

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GMBH  
THE AMATEUR RADIO EXCHANGE CENTRE  
Telephone Jennifer on  
**0181 566 1120**  
and ask about  
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